

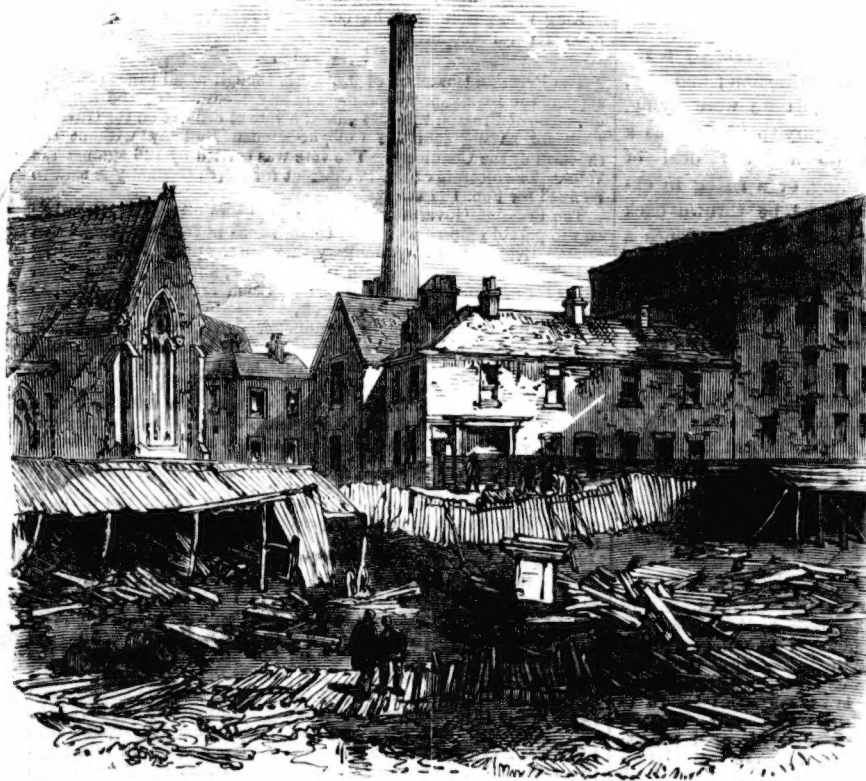
ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. THE RIGHT OF TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS IS RESERVED.

No. 611.—VOL. IX.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1866.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.



SCENES IN MANCHESTER AFTER THE LATE FLOODS: THE ROPE-WALK, SPRINGFIELD-LANE.



JOINERS' WORKSHOP, CORNER OF SUSSEX-STREET AND EDWARD-STREET, LOWER BROUGHTON.



A NIGHT SCENE IN LOWER BROUGHTON.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

THE news from Ireland is causing throughout the empire the gravest apprehensions. Everything seems possible in that unhappy country, and the chances of a Fenian outbreak taking place have certainly increased of late. The report of Stephens having left America for his intended scene of action may or may not be true; but it is certain that the arrivals from the United States have been unusually numerous of late; and, what is also very remarkable, that the number of emigrants leaving Ireland for the other side of the Atlantic has diminished. It appears from a statement recently made by Lord Abercorn that there were fewer emigrants last quarter by 8000 than in the corresponding period of the previous year. It has been suggested, however, that Lord Abercorn need not congratulate the country too much on this fact, of which the probable meaning is that we have 8000 Fenians more in Ireland than we should have had if the tide of emigration had continued to flow westward with its usual force. If it is a fortunate thing that 8000 persons have remained in Ireland over and above the number that might have been expected, it ought to be looked upon as a bit of luck for the country that so many Irishmen should have returned, and should still be returning, from America to the land of their birth.

But the truth is, there is not one fact in the present condition of Ireland that can be interpreted to our advantage or to that of the Irish themselves. If the emigration to America continued at its old rate, that could scarcely be looked upon as a good sign; for what must be the state of that country which every peasant who can scrape up money enough to do so hastens to leave? Some economists—indeed, economists in general—hold that Ireland must in the end be benefited by the departure of thousands and millions of Irishmen from the land of their birth; that the effect of this wholesale emigration will be to increase the demand for labour and consequently the rate of wages in the country abandoned. But the law of supply and demand cannot be applied absolutely in every possible case; and, if all the good labourers quit Ireland, it is idle to suppose that the weak and sickly ones left behind would find their services so eagerly asked for that they would be able to secure their own terms. Either fresh labourers would be brought into the country from Scotland and England, or the estates in many parts of the country would go out of cultivation. We believe there is no doubt of the fact that the able-bodied, energetic men are precisely the ones who do emigrate, and that those who remain do so, not because they are contented with their position at home, but merely because they cannot scrape up sufficient money to go abroad. We are leaving moral considerations altogether out of the question; otherwise the pain suffered by those who tear themselves away from a country which they love, but are compelled by inexorable necessity to leave, is surely worth considering.

This, however, is by no means the moment for sentimentalism. Ireland is, and has been for the last seven centuries, in the position of a conquered country which refuses to accept its fate and to come to terms with the conquerors. That it has been harshly and cruelly treated cannot be denied; but, unfortunately, it has only been during those periods when the severity of its rulers has been the greatest—as, for instance, from the time of the Battle of the Boyne until shortly before the rising of 1798—that there have been continued peace and order in Ireland. The rising of 1798 was not brought about by any additional severity; it was rendered possible by the relaxation of the severity previously practised, and by the permission given to the Irish to form bodies of volunteers for the defence of the country. The Fenian movement cannot be said to have any special local or domestic origin. The recent spread of Fenianism may be, and no doubt is, due in a great measure to the leniency shown to the Fenians already captured and convicted. The penalties in the exciting game of Fenianism, duly considered, are not found very alarming—indeed, many Fenians have escaped scot-free by merely giving their parole, which costs them nothing, for they don't keep it. Even if they did observe it, the punishment of having to retire finally from seditious life would not be a very alarming one, and, instead of deterring, could only have the effect of encouraging intending Fenians to enter the great conspiracy.

But the real base of the meditated insurrection, as in 1798, must be looked for abroad. It was in France that the risings of 1798 and 1800, together with other risings which were never put into execution, were planned; and the reason for planning them was that we were then at war with France. It suited the Irish to make use of the French in the hope of recovering national independence through their assistance; and it suited the French to make use of the Irish in the certainty that through them they could irritate and weaken England. Substitute for France the United States, and allow for our being only on questionable terms with the latter, while with the former we were at war, and we find something like the situation of 1798 reproduced now. We may be quite sure that the Fenians, with all their rashness and absurdity, do not imagine that of their own power alone they can carry on a successful war against England. What they count upon is that they may end by embroiling us with the United States Government; while it is notorious that their designs are looked upon with a favourable eye by a large number of private citizens in America, and, it is to be feared, by a large majority of the population. We believe that the more sanguine of the Fenians really count upon a war between England and the United States, which they declare to be now imminent. The Alabama claims have not yet been settled; and within the last two or three weeks the question—never

finally closed—has been reopened by the American Minister in London. The Fenians hope, of course, that the question will not be settled, and that it will be necessary to fight upon it; and they rely also upon the alleged necessity for America of a foreign war as a means of thoroughly reuniting the Northern and Southern States.

This, from an English point of view, would be a gloomy look-out indeed. But, on the other hand, the Alabama claims may easily and advantageously be settled if the Americans, on their side, will consent to a revision of the laws affecting neutrals at sea; and we may be quite sure that the United States will not propose to fight us for the mere sake of fighting and with the sole view of improving their general health, which, considering all things, might not be greatly benefited by a struggle with England. The notion of a Fenian armada doing us any direct harm is too preposterous to be entertained for a moment. It would be dispersed by a few gun-boats, and the poets of *Punch* and *Fun* would write its history in a parody of the ballad describing the defeat of the more important armada sent against these shores by Spain. But if Fenian vessels were openly equipped in Federal ports we should have something to say on the subject to the American Government, which would no doubt justify itself by a reference to the pretended precedent of the Alabama; and here, at once, would be a cause of war. But, as we were saying, the Fenians of themselves can do no injury to England as a nation. Unfortunately, they can do a great deal of harm to Ireland, which, if the landing, or a rising in expectation of a landing, takes place, will be thrown back years and years; and will, it is to be feared, experience a renewal of those terrible scenes which marked the outbreaks of the last century. We observe that some of our contemporaries are already blaming the Government for not devising "remedial measures," or at least announcing their intention of doing so. But at the present moment there is evidently nothing to be done but to take immediate practical measures for preventing the threatened insurrection, or for suppressing it as speedily as possible if it should unhappily prove inevitable. Not a word should be said at this juncture to lead the intending rebels to suppose that anyone in England can have the least sympathy for them.

THE LATE FLOODS AT MANCHESTER.

WE this week publish some further Engravings illustrative of scenes which occurred during the recent floods at Manchester. It is unnecessary, after the details we published in our last week's Number, to say more in connection with this subject than that our first Engraving represents the scene exhibited at the extensive ropeworks in Springfield-lane—the whole of the space shown in the foreground of the picture having been under water; that our second depicts a scene of destruction seen at the corner of Sussex-street and Edward-street after the floods; that our third illustration is a night scene in Lower Broughton; and that the fourth shows the extensive copper-rolling and engineering works of Messrs. Lockett, in whose stables a man lost his life by remaining about the place till escape was cut off by the rising of the waters.

The "Night Scene in Lower Broughton" represents one out of many witnessed in that neighbourhood; in fact, the whole quarter was in a like condition to that shown in the Engraving. The houses here are small two-story tenements, inhabited by working people. A local contemporary thus describes the scene portrayed in our illustration:—

"We have heard of several cases in which persons narrowly escaped drowning. In one instance, several persons were in a cart in Sandon-street, Broughton-road. The cart had been engaged to take them away from their house, but when they got to Sandon-street, the pony which was drawing the cart could not proceed further, being then up to its mouth in water. Quick, a sergeant of the Salford police, and a man named Bashford, went to their assistance, and by means of ropes dragged the pony, cart, and passengers out of the flood. While they were thus engaged, they saw three boys on a wall in the same street. The boys were screaming for help, and they were very speedily rescued from their dangerous position by the same men."

Our Engravings are from sketches by Mr. Thos. Jewsbury, of Manchester.

OYSTERS bred on one side of a river, in some parts of Cornwall, are so copious that they are poisonous; while those bred on the other side of the same river are of a delicious flavour. The oysters bred on the coppery beds are transferred to the South of England oyster-parks, where they are kept and fattened, and, after a while, the coppery impregnations vanish.

THE FENIANS.—An idea seems to be prevalent throughout Ireland that the Fenians are on the eve of some extensive outbreak. Whether the authorities have private information, or whether their activity results only from an astute interpretation of the signs of the times, does not appear; but arms have been seized in Cork, ammunition in Limerick, and Fenian emissaries of the Yankee type in Dublin and Belfast. McGillivray, the fellow seized at Dublin, had just obtained £900 in cash for an American draught, and was taken with the money in his possession. On Saturday night 1250 breech-loading rifles were received for the Dublin constabulary, who now make their rounds in pairs, as they did last winter; and it has transpired that for several nights the troops of the garrison have been under arms, besides which detachments of cavalry have patrolled the suburbs. This precautionary activity has naturally excited great alarm in Cork, the police-stations having been barricaded, the military placed in strategic positions, and several arrests have taken place. Several regiments have already been sent to Ireland, and further reinforcements are to follow. There appears to be good reason to believe that Stephens has succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the authorities, and is now once more on Irish soil. The Atlantic telegraph apprises us of his departure from the United States; and it is scarcely likely that this fact would be made public by his brother conspirators until he had made good his landing in Ireland. The impression that the head centre has arrived is said to prevail in Fenian circles in Liverpool.

DISCOVERY OF AN AMERICAN MASTODON.—A New York paper states that on the 8th ult. workmen excavating a foundation for a mill at the manufacturing village of Cohoes, near Troy, found the remains of a complete skeleton of a huge mastodon 83 ft. below the surface and about 100 ft. from the Mohawk River. It is believed that the frame can be made quite perfect. The remains were carefully gathered together, cleaned, and oiled, and it was expected that Professor Agassiz would arrive to inspect them. The jaw is 4 ft. 9 in. in length from the mouth to the cranium, to which a portion of the backbone and jaw is still connected. The cranium rises very much like that of an elephant. The two tusks each measure 8 ft. in length, and their true position is well marked on the upper jaw. The hip-bone is 5 ft. long, and weighs 100 lb., while the shoulder blades measure 10 ft. 9 in. and weigh about 50 lb. each. The under jaw, found some weeks since, precisely fits the upper jaw now exhumed; and the ribs are found to be 4½ ft. in length. The measurements show that the animal must have stood at least 15 ft. in height and have been a little upwards of 20 ft. in length, independent of the tusks, already stated to be each 8 ft. in length. Professor Marsh, of the Yale College Scientific School, gives it as his opinion that the remains discovered are those of a great North American mastodon, comparing in all its parts fully with the description of the animal given in the scientific works, as follows:—"The animal has the vaulted and cellular skull of the elephant, with large tusks in the upper jaw and heavy form. From the character of the nasal bones and the shortness of the head and neck, it has been concluded it had a trunk."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The silence of the *Moniteur* as to the movements of the Emperor Maximilian is causing great uneasiness in Paris, and has given rise to a general belief in a statement made by *La France* that the Emperor has resigned. Much anxiety is naturally felt as to the position of the French army, which, with Marshal Bazaine and General Castelnau, remains in and around the city of Mexico.

In consequence of an understanding between the English and French Governments, the Extradition Treaty of 1843, which expires on the 4th inst., will continue in force until the beginning of September, 1867.

ITALY.

It is stated that Signor Vegezzi will shortly leave Florence on a mission to Rome. This and various other matters which have lately transpired would tend to show that there is great probability of a reconciliation between the Papal and the Italian Governments, if no injudicious friends intervene.

A Royal decree has been issued ordering that from the 30th ult. martial law shall cease to be in force in the province of Palermo.

Prince Umberto has issued a circular urging the Italians to take an active part in the approaching Paris Exhibition of 1867.

The elections in Venetia for deputies to the Italian Parliament took place on the 27th ult. Candidates have been definitively returned for thirty electoral districts. In the remaining districts a second balloting will have to take place. Nearly all the successful candidates belong to the Moderate party.

King Victor Emmanuel has conferred the order of the Annunziata upon General Menabrea.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Chamber of Deputies, though at all times ready to support the Bismarck Government in any measure for the aggrandisement of Prussia, has just passed a vote of censure on the Government for having sold the Cologne-Minden Railway without the sanction of the Chambers. The vote was carried by 126 against 122 votes. The meeting of the Parliament for North Germany is said to be fixed for Feb. 1 next.

The Prussian Government is going to put an end to all trimming on the part of officers who held commissions in the late Hanoverian army. Before the 1st of January they are to apply to the ex-King to be released from their oath of allegiance, and make application either for pensions or places in the Prussian army. If they fail to do this then their pay will be cut off.

The Minister of Commerce has announced to the Chamber that the construction of the North-east Canal would be commenced as soon as the sum of 30,000,000 thalers was forthcoming. He stated that the Government would perhaps be willing to furnish a few millions of the necessary amount and to take up a certain number of the shares, but not to guarantee the whole amount. He further declared that, on the completion of the canal, no navigation dues would be demanded.

AUSTRIA.

The Provisional Diet of Lower Austria has adopted the draught of an address to the Emperor requesting his Majesty, in respectful terms, to convoke the Diet.

There has been a conference of members of the Hungarian Diet at the house of M. Deak, at which the course to be taken in reference to the Royal Rescript was considered. M. Deak thought that, from the continuity of rights view, the Rescript was a most hopeful document, and he moved an address to the King praying that the laws of 1848 might be re-established, and promising to consider the wishes expressed by the King. The address was adopted.

The Austrian Government Commissioner in the Tyrol having been asked in the Diet whether there was any intention on the part of the Government to cede the Tyrol to Italy, promptly replied that there was no such intention; that the Government would take steps to punish those who circulated rumours to that effect; and that any attempt at agitation in favour of annexation to Italy would be vigorously put down.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Charles opened the Chambers, on the 27th ult., in person. In the speech from the throne he announced that the suzerainty of the Porte would be respected within the limits of the Treaty of Paris. He also announced that the relations with neighbouring countries were of a peaceful character. That the political relations of the Principalities were satisfactory was proved by the recognition of his dynasty on the part of the Porte and the guaranteeing Powers. All contracts entered into by the Government would be carried out at any sacrifice, in order to preserve the credit of the country.

TURKEY.

The Prince of Serbia has renewed his demands for equal rights with the Hospodar of Roumania. He has offered to pay the tribute of Serbia to the Porte three years in advance, and to contract a loan for that purpose.

The Greek Minister at Constantinople has demanded that the Greek soldiers who have been captured in Candia should be given up to him; but the Turks refuse.

CRETE.

If we may credit accounts received through Greek sources from Crete, the insurrection is not wholly at an end. A fresh engagement is said to have taken place between the Turkish troops and the insurgents under Coronoe and Korata, resulting in the defeat of the Turks, with a loss of 3000 killed and 2000 taken prisoners. The insurgents are also stated to have gained a victory near Askpyho. It is believed that Mustapha Pacha has been recalled, and that he will be replaced by Omar Pacha.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 17th ult.

Political affairs were quiet.

Washington despatches state that General Sherman and Minister Campbell would stop at Havannah, en route for Vera Cruz. General Sheridan would probably meet them at Havannah. It was rumoured at New Orleans that General Sherman goes to Mexico as the forerunner of an army of occupation. There was unusual activity in forwarding supplies and equipments to the Federal troops on the Rio Grande.

Messrs. Hillyer and Lowry, of the Mississippi Commission, had called upon the President in relation to Jefferson Davis, and presented him with a letter from Governor Humphrey, who says that those whom he represents do not seek to screen Davis from a trial; that his imprisonment is not necessary to secure his presence when desired for trial; that his continued incarceration threatens fatal results to his health; and that the ends of justice will be reached by admitting him to bail or parole, which they severally ask. The documents seem to assume that there will be no trial. The President received the commission courteously, and informed them that he would give their application due consideration.

Messrs. Hinds and Woods, of the Old Board of Baltimore Police commissioners, had formally surrendered everything to the new commissioners, who had fully entered on the duties at the commissioners' office.

The New York Chamber of Commerce had entertained Mr. Cyrus Field at a grand "cable banquet" at the Metropolitan Hotel. Admiral Farragut, General Meade, and other eminent persons were present. Letters of congratulation were read from President Johnson, General Grant, and the members of the Cabinet. The health of Queen Victoria was given and enthusiastically responded to. Mr. Cyrus Field proposed as a toast, "England and America clasping hands across the sea. May this firm grasp be a pledge of friendship to all generations!" The toast was enthusiastically cheered.

MEXICO.

Intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 1st ult. announces that the Emperor Maximilian had left, to return to the capital.

The United States authorities have arrested Ortega, the rival of Juarez. Ortega has revenged himself with a protest against American interference in Mexico. The United States Government has determined to support Juarez, and that chief will certainly be the recognised President of the Mexican Republic.

SOUTH AMERICA.

News from Rio de Janeiro to Nov. 9 shows how complete is the defeat of the allies. The assailed Paraguayans are now the assailants, and have bombarded the entrenched camp of Baron Porto-Alegre. Moreover, a fresh danger threatens one, at least, of the allies. Bolivia has always protested against the attack upon Paraguay, and now, having concentrated an army on the Argentine frontier, threatens to invade the province of Jujuy.

CANADA.

Intelligence from Toronto announces that another Fenian, Daniel Whelan, has been sentenced to be hanged at Toronto on the 13th instant. It is asserted that the sentences pronounced against the Fenians will not be commuted, but suspended, the prisoners being held as hostages for the good behaviour of their friends. Mr. Darcy Magee has made a speech asserting that the Fenians will not be hanged. John Quinn, formerly of the Confederate army, was also found "Guilty" and sentenced to be hanged on the 12th instant.

ROME AND THE POPE.

A PAMPHLET, entitled "Il Senato Romano e il Papa," is circulating in diplomatic quarters in Paris. Every member of the Roman aristocracy and the foreign diplomatic body found a copy of it at his residence, where it had been placed by an unknown hand. Thousands of copies have been circulated among the people of that city. On the titlepage are the arms of the Roman Senate; the date is that of All Souls' Day, and the work bears the signature of "Stefano Porcari." That name involves an allusion to the grave events which took place at Rome in 1453, when the conspiracy was discovered, the object of which was the taking away of the temporal power of Pope. The pamphlet, relying upon history and upon ancient and modern law, tends to show that it is for the Romans alone to decide on their own destiny; and, in conclusion, the writer proclaims the maxim of Cavour, "Chiesa libera in libero Stato" ("A free Church in a free State"). A letter from Rome in the *Salut Public* of Lyons gives the subjoined further details respecting this production:—

It is a brochure of thirty-four pages, and its object is to demonstrate that at Rome, under the Kings, the Republic, and the Emperors, the authority of the law and of sovereignty never left the hands of the Senate and Roman people. Coming to the Popes, it points out that the pontifical authority was completely overthrown by the Senate, which reckoned among its members Crescenzo, Giordano, Pierleoni, Rienz, Porcari, and, lastly, the Cardinal Pompeo Colonna, and mentions the agreements stipulated between the Senate and Pope Clement III., Gregory IX., Boniface IX., and Innocent VII., acting as rival powers. Arriving, then, at the epoch of Pius IX., the author reviews the various laws suggested to that Pontiff by the feeling of jealousy which he must have inherited from his predecessors. He proves that under Pius IX. all political representation was taken away from the Senate; also that every guarantee was destroyed that had been granted by the fundamental statute of March, 1848, and that the legal representation of the country passed into the hands of the two councils whose duty it is to deliberate on all matters of public administration. If it be asked what are the rights of the Popes over Rome, the pamphlet answers "None." They do not possess the right derived from a gift, because Rome was never given to them; nor that founded on a spontaneous obedience, because, in fact, the Romans have a thousand times risen against the Popes; nor that arising from custom and vassalage, because Rome, a free city from its foundation, has always been governed by magistrates taken from two principal orders, the patricians and the plebeians. It is not for having been forcibly subjected to Papal usurpation and for having bent under violence that the Roman people have lost their rights.

ARCHBISHOP MANNING ON THE TEMPORAL POWER.—On Tuesday night, at the anniversary dinner of the Benevolent Society for the Relief of the Aged and Infirm Poor—the oldest Roman Catholic charitable association in London—Archbishop Manning presided. In proposing the first toast, "The Health of the Sovereign Pontiff Pope Pius IX.," he said that he proposed the health of his Holiness in these words because a Sovereign Pope was and a Sovereign he would be. He remembered when on the last occasion they met together he mentioned to them a saying of his Holiness which bore intrinsic evidence of its credibility. The saying was one uttered by his Holiness when he had been just told of the convention, which in point of duration expired in September last, and would expire by its imminent execution next week. He replied, "A great deal of water will run down the Tiber into the sea before two years are over." It appeared to him that this prophecy had been fully fulfilled in the tumultuous stream of events that had since passed over every country in the Old World and in the New, and which had completely effaced the situation of two years ago. He felt that there was no country in the world—at least, in the Christian world—which did not stand with regard to the Holy See in a different position from that which it occupied two years ago. There now were dangers at home and abroad impending over every nation that made men feel that the temporal power of the Pope—hate it as they might—was the keystone of a certain civil and Christian order upon which depended the happiness and order of all Christian States. He was perfectly confident that that sentiment was to be found in France—upon the throne of that country; it was to be found in Austria; it was still more powerful in Prussia after its recent victories; it was to be found in England, with Ireland by her side. He wished to mention another saying attributed, and he believed correctly attributed, to his Holiness. It was said that the other day a person of great authority came to his Holiness and told him that the time for the departure of the French army was near at hand, and that their departure would be followed by events of great seriousness. "In fact," he said in conclusion, "après moi, le déluge." The Holy Father smiled and said, "From Holy Wit we know there will never be another deluge, therefore I am not afraid." This saying well represented his Holiness's calm, unwavering trust and confidence, not in Princes of the earth, for in them he put no confidence, but in that higher Power on whose protection he has reposed during a Pontificate of twenty years of trial and glory. This holy confidence, his charity to his enemies, his clemency, his truth, the stainless purity of his motives, so deeply impressed all who came in contact with the Holy Father that the other day, when a veteran statesman, a man mixed up in European politics for half a century, was leaving the presence of his Holiness, he said to those near him, "This is indeed the Sovereign of Sovereigns." The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, as was also the health of the Queen, proposed by his Grace immediately afterwards.

CURIOUS CASE.—An application to obtain possession of a sum of 17,000*fr.* recovered by a singular chain of circumstances, was made at the Civil Court of Paris by a person named Cauchois. An elderly widow named Tamizier, the aunt of the applicant, died about five years back, when her furniture and other objects were sold by auction. One lot, disposed of for 4*fr.* to a dealer in old furniture and odds and ends, named Audebert, included a little workbox containing among other things several balls of cotton. This article remained for a long time in the possession of the man, who eventually gave it to a dressmaker named Fricoteau. The latter, having one day occasion to use some cotton, took up by far the largest ball, but, on handling it, found that the interior was a round mass of paper. On examination, the compressed packet turned out to consist of twenty notes of 100*fr.* each. The money was returned by Mlle. Fricoteau to Audebert, who, to reward her for her honesty, made her share in a long train of festivity which he carried on to celebrate this unexpected piece of good fortune. The happy couple squandered the money, however, with such prodigality that the attention of their neighbours was excited, and a rumour got into circulation that Audebert and Mlle. Fricoteau must have committed some robbery. The report reached the ears of the police, and the man and woman were taken before an examining magistrate on suspicion. There the truth came out, and Audebert and Mlle. Fricoteau were at once dismissed, but seventeen of the bank-notes which remained were impounded. M. Cauchois, sole heir to Mlle. Tamizier, now came forward to claim that sum, and the demand not being opposed by anyone, the Court ordered the restitution of the money to the applicant as desired.

THE NIHILISTS IN RUSSIA.—The Russian journals publish a curious decree of General Ogareff, Governor of Nijni-Novgorod. It runs thus:—"We have remarked that the ladies wear in the streets the particular style of dress adopted by the women connected with the society of Nihilists. This toilet is characterised by round hats, holding the hair which is cut short, blue spectacles, and the absence of corset. Since the criminal attempt of the 16th of April the society which has produced a regime is abhorred by all right-thinking people. The costume adopted by it ought therefore to be considered by those whose duty it is to preserve public order as a provocation deserving blame and punishment; we therefore request the authorities to specially watch the persons alluded to, and to order the police of the city and districts to send them to the bureau, where they should undertake in writing to change their style of dress. In case of refusal they should be warned that they will incur the penalty of exile, in conformity with existing laws. The police ought, moreover, to exercise a rigorous surveillance on the habits and procedures of these persons."

THE HOSPODAR OF ROUMANIA.

THE following interesting account of the adventures of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern is extracted from a Bucharest letter:—"Few people in Europe, and I doubt even if many in Roumania, know the curious adventures of Prince Charles when going to take possession of the Crown. He was simply a Lieutenant in a garrison town of Rhenish Prussia, and one fine day he found himself marked out, almost without his knowing it, in the communications of high-placed diplomatists, to occupy a tottering throne likely soon to be vacant. The moment for action came. Three or four persons only knew what was to happen; but among these, it is true, were Count de Bismarck and, perhaps, a crowned head. The Prince put on a disguise and set off on a journey. He went to Zurich, left that town under a feigned name, as a commercial traveller in the wine trade, with a case of champagne as baggage, and took the train for Dresden. In another carriage was a Wallachian officer, supposed not to know his Highness in disguise. Charles I., before committing himself further in entering upon Austrian territory, took instructions from a person who, better than any other, knows men and affairs in Roumania, and who, a Lombard by birth and a Frenchman by adoption, has not been a stranger to Roumanian politics since 1848. He then boldly entered on the unknown; passed through Bohemia, Vienna, and Hungary, by train and steamer, carrying with him his passport and his case of champagne; and close by was always the Wallachian officer, whom he did not know, and who did not know him, when other people were present. He heard discussions going on around him of the war about to take place in Germany, of the fall of Cozza, the singular vote of the Roumanians, their strange choice of a Prussian Prince, and the attitude of the guaranteeing Powers. At Turn-Severin, on the Wallachian shore, the steamer stopped an hour or two. On a hill are some Roman ruins; a tower built by Septimius Severus. The traveller in wine and the Wallachian officer landed to see the remains and study archaeology. The hour for starting came round, but the two passengers did not return, and the passenger left without them. You know the rest. The Prince had thrown off his disguise, and the officer had resumed his uniform; and the Prefect of the village had the signal honour of announcing to the Provisional Government the arrival of the elect of the Roumanians. Who was astonished? All Europe, with the exception of four persons. Because, let this be borne in mind, this remarkable enterprise was conceived, carried out, worked out, and executed against the will of Austria, and in the teeth of the guaranteeing Powers, by four individuals. I do not know that there is in history an example of such a fortunate undertaking. Charles I. has a high idea of his princely duties; you will see him working with a real will, and conscientiously, as Germans usually do. One of the first things he did will give you an idea of what he is, and how immeasurably superior to his predecessors. The political personage whom I have already mentioned who accompanied the Prince to Dresden, knew the influence which women had always exercised in the councils of Roumanian Princes, and did not hesitate to hold to his pupil the language of Mentor to Telemachus, and, as a guarantee for the success of the new reign, he made him promise to banish ladies from his court. Charles I. had hardly arrived when he declared his intentions; the Court of Roumania, formerly charming, as all know, and filled with allurements, intrigues, and fascinations, became more austere than the cell of a Western monk, a place of business and study worthy of Germany, whence its new master had come. There were some who did not find this change to their taste. At first there was some little murmuring; then they began to adapt themselves to the change; they were not much in the habit of looking at things seriously, but it was necessary to do so, and accordingly they are beginning to get used to it. Prince Charles begins by establishing a reform among those who surround him; he does not commence with apparent and outside reforms, but goes straight to the seat of the disease, and there applies the searing iron. It is society which first of all requires to be purified, and that reform he is endeavouring to effect."

BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES ON HIS WEDDING DAY.—Francis Bradley was charged at Birmingham, on Monday, with being drunk and assaulting a shoeblack. The prosecutor said the prisoner, with others, came up to him, and Bradley kicked the prosecutor's box and brushes across the road; and, on being remonstrated with, struck the shoeblack with a walking-stick. On being asked what he had to say, the prisoner said: I am in beer now. I don't know what I did. I have been married this morning.—Mr. Gem: That is one reason why you should be on good and friendly feeling with all mankind.—Prisoner: I have been married this morning. I have had a drop of rum, and what I have done I can't say for certain.—Mr. Kynnersley: But you must not thrash people in this way. To prosecutor: Did you speak to him at all?—Prosecutor: No, Sir.—Prisoner: I have been a teetotaler for the last three months, and had a drop this morning.—Mr. Gem: If it had not been that you had been married this morning you would have been locked up till to-morrow.—The Prisoner: I have been married this morning, and when one gets married you must expect a bit of a spree.—Mr. Gem: But you have set about this poor fellow with a stick. However, you can perhaps arrange it with him and give him something.—The prisoner and shoeblack talked the matter over, and at length it was agreed that the latter should receive 8*s.* as compensation.

LONDON TRADES' REFORM DEMONSTRATION.—The trades' unions and friendly societies of London are to hold a demonstration in favour of Parliamentary reform on Monday next. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a suitable place in which to meet, but this has been got over through the kindness of Lord Ranelagh, who has consented to allow the gathering to take place in the grounds at Beaufort House. At a meeting of the Demonstration Committee, on Tuesday evening, the chairman, Mr. G. Potter, reported that himself and Mr. Jenkins had waited upon Lord Ranelagh with respect to the Beaufort House Ride-ground, Old Brompton. They were met in the most frank and gentlemanly manner; and having stated the object of their visit, after due consideration, his Lordship granted their request, handing to the deputation a letter in which he stated his political views, carefully guarding himself from acquiescing in the objects or principles of the Reform Association. The letter concluded as follows:—"I take it for granted that you will indemnify me against any possible damage by riot or otherwise. I am 'Conservative' of my park fencing, and prefer it to the unsightly wall-poles' which now surround the place of a former meeting in anything but pleasing memorial." It was then resolved that the meeting be held in the grounds of Lord Ranelagh, and that the secretary write a respectful letter to Lord John Manners thanking his Lordship for the offer of Primrose-hill, but informing him that the committee had secured private grounds in which to hold the meeting. The committee then adjourned with three cheers for Lord Ranelagh, and thanks to Lord John Manners and Mr. Walpole for their courteous treatment of the deputations who had waited upon them.

HER MAJESTY'S TRANSPORT EUPHRATES.—On Saturday morning last Messrs. Laird Brothers, of Birkenhead, floated the Indian transport Euphrates, which they are building for Government. Mr. Reed, Chief Constructor of the Navy; Mr. Luke, principal inspector, Mr. John Laird, M.P.; and other gentlemen were present. The ceremony of naming the vessel was gracefully performed by Miss Mends, daughter of Captain Mends, C.B., director of the transport service. Immediately after she had been towed out of the dock in which she had been built, the Euphrates was taken into the graving-dock adjoining, where, with the aid of the 50-ton crane, she will speedily receive her engines and boilers, masts, &c., and, in fact, complete her fitting. The whole work of floating and redocking was performed in little over an hour. The Euphrates is one of five ships now being built, under the inspection of the Admiralty, to carry on the improved Indian Relief Troop Service, by way of Alexandria and Suez, which will effect a great saving of time as compared with the present system of sending the reliefs by the Cape of Good Hope, and add very much to the health and comfort of the troops. It is intended that two of these vessels shall do the service between England and Alexandria, two between Suez and the Indian ports, and the fifth shall be held in reserve for any particular use that may be required. These five ships have been designed by the Controller's Department of the Admiralty, under the direction of Mr. E. J. Reed, the Chief Constructor of the Navy, to carry out the requirements of the Transport Board, submitted by Captain Mends, R.N., and have been most carefully adapted for the intended service, in order that they may have the greatest possible space, and best sanitary arrangements for soldiers and passengers, together with the highest rate of speed compatible with the necessary stowage for military stores and coals, on a draught of water not exceeding 21 ft. They are to be exactly alike in all respects, and fitted to carry 1450 persons, of which number 1250 are military, and 200 the ship's officers and crew. The accommodation is roomy and well ventilated, and the whole of the arrangements are of the most perfect description. The speed is intended to be fourteen knots an hour, and the bunkers will contain coal for fifteen or sixteen days' consumption. The dimensions are:—Length, 365 ft.; width, 49 ft.; tonnage, 4175 tons. The work is in an advanced state, the boilers being on board and the cabins and other fittings in progress. The engines have been designed and constructed at Messrs. Laird's establishment, and are of 700-horse power nominal, but will exert an actual power of not less than 4200-horse power. The cylinders have a diameter of 94 in. by 4 ft. 6 in. stroke, and these and the other parts, although of enormous weight and size, are finished with the greatest accuracy and in the best style of workmanship, and are the largest engines that have been made in the port. They are fitted with surface condensers, and other appliances for economising fuel. Messrs. Laird have built the Euphrates in the building-dock from which the iron-plated frigate Agincourt was successfully floated complete in March, 1865, and, as the dock is covered with a shed, the work has been protected from the effects of the weather during the course of construction. The engines and masts are to be put on board in the large graving-dock adjoining, and, as these are all ready, it is intended to put the first cylinder on board directly the vessel is brought under the crane, so that no time will be lost in getting her completed for sea. That so large a vessel and her machinery can be completed for sea without leaving the premises is another proof of the completeness of the arrangements and appliances at Messrs. Laird's establishment. After seeing the Euphrates re-docked, Messrs. Laird's guests visited the Great Eastern and returned to luncheon in the new offices at the yard.

OBITUARY.

M. DE BARANTE.—M. de Barante, the historian of the Dukes of Burgundy, died on Thursday week at his country seat, the Château de Barante (Auvergne), in the eighty-fourth year of his age. Few men have led a life more actively employed than M. de Barante. He entered the Polytechnic School four years after its creation, in 1794, by the Convention, on the recommendation of Monge and Fourcroy. In 1802 he was appointed to the civil service as supernumerary clerk in the Home Department. Four years afterwards he was named auditor to the Council of State, and was subsequently intrusted with various missions to Germany, Poland, and Spain. In 1807 he became Sub-Prefect in the Deux-Sèvres; in 1809 he was promoted to the prefecture of La Vendée, and in 1813 to that of the Loire-Inférieure. There are, perhaps, few persons conversant with the history of France who have not read the charming memoirs of Mme. de La Rochejaquelein (mother of the senator of that name, and who died at an advanced age only a few years ago) relating to the sanguinary wars waged against the insurgents of La Vendée during the first period of the French Republic, in which she figured prominently; but it may not have been generally known that the clear and dramatic description of the acts of which she was either a sharer or an eye-witness was drawn up from her notes and conversations by M. de Barante, and published under her name in 1816. His having served the Empire did not prevent him from becoming, when the Empire fell, one of the warmest partisans of the Bourbons. After Waterloo he was named by Louis XVIII. Councillor of State and Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, while the two departments (Puy-de-Dôme and the Loire-Inférieure) elected him to the Chamber of Deputies. He was appointed in 1816 to the responsible post of Director-General of Indirect Taxes, having been obliged to resign his seat in the Chamber, as he had not the age required by the new law. In 1819 he was raised to the dignity of a peer of France; but on the fall of his friend, the Duke Decazes, after the death of the Duke de Berri, he lost his post of Director-General. He then joined the Doctrinaires, and, being no longer a placeholder, went into opposition, and refused the post of Minister Plenipotentiary to Denmark. It was at this time he published a work which attracted great attention, "Des Communes et de l'Aristocratie." During three or four years M. de Barante opposed in the Chamber the foreign and domestic policy of the Bourbons; but his time was far from being exclusively devoted to politics, for at no period of his life was his literary activity greater. Translations from English and German writers, critical essays on various writers, kept his name constantly before the public; and the temperate Liberalism of the peer of France, as well as the talents of the writer, contributed in no trifling degree to the admiration which his greatest work, "L'Histoire des Ducs de Bourgogne de la Maison de Valois," excited. It appeared in 1824, in three volumes 8vo; passed through four editions in little more than two years, and, in the opinion of many, placed its author in the foremost rank of modern historians. It was as the historian of the Dukes of Burgundy that he was elected member of the French Academy in 1828. M. de Barante was the consistent supporter of the Orleans Government from its installation, in 1830, till its fall, in 1848. He voted in the Chamber of Peers with the Conservatives, and defended the Guizot Ministry against all comers. As the reporter of the last address of the Chamber of Deputies in reply to the speech from the throne, he vigorously denounced the reform agitation, of which he foresaw the consequences. The Revolution of February put an end to his career as a public man. But he was not idle in his retreat. He was engaged on a pamphlet, "Questions Constitutionnelles" (1849), when the controversy was sharpest on the revision of the Constitution; and his last chapter is devoted to that subject. He advocated the necessity of the revision, one of the objects of which was the re-election of the President of the Republic. The majority of the Assembly supported it; but the 11th article of that impossible Constitution required that the majority for revision should consist of three-fourths of the whole number of voters, and that 500 at least should vote. The revision was rejected, and we know what came of it.

"GAVARNI."—This distinguished French artist, who is better known in Paris as well as London by his *nom de guerre* of "Gavarni," than by his own name, Sulpice-Paul Chevalier, died on Sunday at Auteuil, near Paris, where he resided. Latterly he had in a great measure retired from artistic life, but a few years ago the fertility of his pencil was one of the wonderful facts to be remarked, and the popularity of his productions in all the principal cities of Europe was astounding. He was essentially a draughtsman of character. He was born in a very lowly station, and was to have lived the life of a mechanic. But the artistic power which was native with him gave him higher aspirations, and he laboured in all the time he could save for another career. He obtained instruction at one of the free schools of design at Paris, and by this means ultimately found employment which emancipated him from other labour. This step he did not gain till he was thirty-four years old, in 1835, and the appointment which thus freed him was to design fashion-plates. He soon became famous in the little world to which his work ministered; then got beyond it, and entered upon a career of well-earned popularity. His drawings of Parisian society, with the often caustic, always witty, legend attached to them, which was one of their characteristics, are well known, and as they were produced were greatly appreciated. But, besides these more fugitive productions, he illustrated several books with an ability which has carried them far and wide. Principal among these were "Le Juif Errant," "Le Diable à Paris," the works of Balzac, the tales of Hoffmann, &c. He was, moreover, a constant and brilliant contributor to *Charivari*. In 1849 he came to England, and essayed to depict the characteristics of London life as he had done those of Paris. His subjects were sought chiefly among the lowest orders in the town, and, though most interesting, were not very successful, by reason of the peculiarly national feeling of his pencil. He returned to France, and since then did not publish very many conspicuous works. Latterly he devoted his attention to studying the principles and endeavouring to perfect the practice of aerostation. He was born, in 1801, in Paris.

SERVAIS, THE VIOLONCELLIST.—The death is announced from Hal, in Belgium, of the famous violoncello player Servais, in his sixtieth year. He was born in the same town, and was the son of a musician attached to the church, from whom he received the first lessons on the violin. The Marquis de Sayve, a distinguished amateur, having remarked his ability, placed him under the instruction of Van der Planken, the first violin at the Monnaie Theatre at Brussels. One day Servais heard Plateau, a famous violoncello player, and instantly abandoned the violin for the other instrument. He entered the Conservatoire at Brussels, and became a wonderfully fine player. After a time he was advised to visit Paris, where he achieved a great triumph. He afterwards went to London, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia, everywhere meeting with the same success. In 1848 he was at the head of the violoncello class at the Conservatoire of Brussels, where he formed many distinguished pupils. He was an officer in the Order of Leopold.

BROTHER IGNATIUS.—The Rev. J. L. Lyne preached at St. Bartholomew's Church, Cripplegate, on Sunday evening to a large congregation. He does not appear in monkish habit, but in the surplice, differing from ordinary clergymen only in the extra length of the cassock. The tonsure on the head is concealed. He has not yet received a license from the Bishop of London, nor is it known whether his Lordship will consent to admit him into the order of the priesthood.

A MONTH'S NOTICE FROM THE PULPIT.—A rather singular scene occurred in a parish church not four miles from Padstow. It appears that the Rector is very much opposed to persons coming into church after the commencement of the service, and when they do come in he always stops his reading until they are comfortably seated, and then proceeds. It happened a few Sundays since that his own servants—two sisters—came in late, when the clergyman paused as usual; but when he ascended the pulpit and before giving out the text, he said, "I hereby give you, Elizabeth S— and Kate S—, a month's notice to leave my service, in consequence of your coming late to church." The young women blushed crimson and the congregation audibly tittered.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The following notice to exhibitors at the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1867 is published:—1. The Exhibition is to be opened on Monday, April 1, 1867, and the Imperial commission will have a review of the Exhibition complete on Thursday, March 23. 2. To enable the British department to open with punctuality, exhibitors are requested to make the following arrangements. 3. Machinery and heavy manufactures: when foundations are required, the exhibitor must cause them to be commenced before Jan. 5, 1867. 4. All heavy machinery and objects of a cumbersome nature must be deposited in the building before Feb. 10. 5. Furniture and manufactures of a heavy description must be deposited in the building by March 1; jewellery and textile fabrics before March 10. 6. Exhibitors are required, either personally or by their agents, to see to the transmission and reception of their goods in the building. 7. Exhibitors must state to the British executive on or before Jan. 5 if they intend themselves personally being in Paris to receive and install their goods in the building, or if they intend employing an agent; if the latter, they must transmit by the same date the name and address of the agent who will represent them. 8. A list of the persons who offer their services as agents may be seen at the Paris offices at South Kensington Museum; but the executive commission do not undertake any responsibility whatever in the naming of agents. 9. The British executive will mark out on the floor of the building the sites of the different allotments made to exhibitors. Those allotments which, by Feb. 15, are not taken possession of, will be treated as resigned, and be appropriated to the purposes of the Exhibition. 10. The executive commission will mark the floor and place the packages in their proper places, but the Imperial commission require exhibitors to pay all expenses of transmission and installation of their goods in the building, the storage of their packing-cases, &c. 11. All packages must be labelled with the official addresses, which will be supplied by the executive commission. 12. The offices of the British executive will be at 71, Champs Elysées, and will be open there on Jan. 7, 1867, from nine till five p.m. By order, H. G. WYLD, secretary to the executive commission.

JOHN OXFORD, ESQ.

MR. OXFORD, the well-known dramatic author, with whose portrait we this week illustrate our pages, is a native of Camberwell, Surrey, and was born in the year 1812. He was educated for the law, and was at one time articled to a London solicitor; but, preferring literature to law, he resolved to become a dramatic author. He has written several successful pieces for the theatres, and is the author of a great many songs, both original and translated. He has also translated from the German "Eckerman's Conversations with Goethe," "The Autobiography of Goethe," &c. He is understood to be responsible for the theatrical department of the *Times*. Of late years he has greatly devoted himself to the composition of opera books, being generally the literary collaborator of Messrs. Benedict and G. A. Macfarren.

Mr. Oxford's latest dramatic work, "Neighbours," produced a week or two ago at the Strand Theatre, has already been noticed in these columns.

THE

VENETIAN FESTIVALS.

WE have already given so full an account of the entry of King Victor Emmanuel into Venice and the consequent rejoicings that our illustrations this week, representing as they do the last grand scenes of that magnificent display, require only brief descriptions, although, in fact, they were the most wonderful spectacles in all that great series of fêtes which made the Grand Canal one gorgeous panorama. The great event of the day, when the King was to appear on the canal, was the gondola-race; and, to the Briton, who knows what boat-racing means, the mere propulsion of half a dozen pair-oared fancy barges by a set of lazy competitors offered no attractions: it was the place, the marvellous company, the grand moving crowd of brilliant boats, gilded and varnished, and decked with many-hued draperies, some of which floated like trains in the water and dyed the rippling waves with delicate colours. Six or seven slender gondolas competed in the race, each rowed by two barcaruoli in smart dresses of varied colours. Half the competitors were Venetians; the other half came from Mestre, on the mainland.

His Majesty, who was in plain morning dress, came in his state



JOHN OXFORD, ESQ., DRAMATIC AUTHOR AND CRITIC.

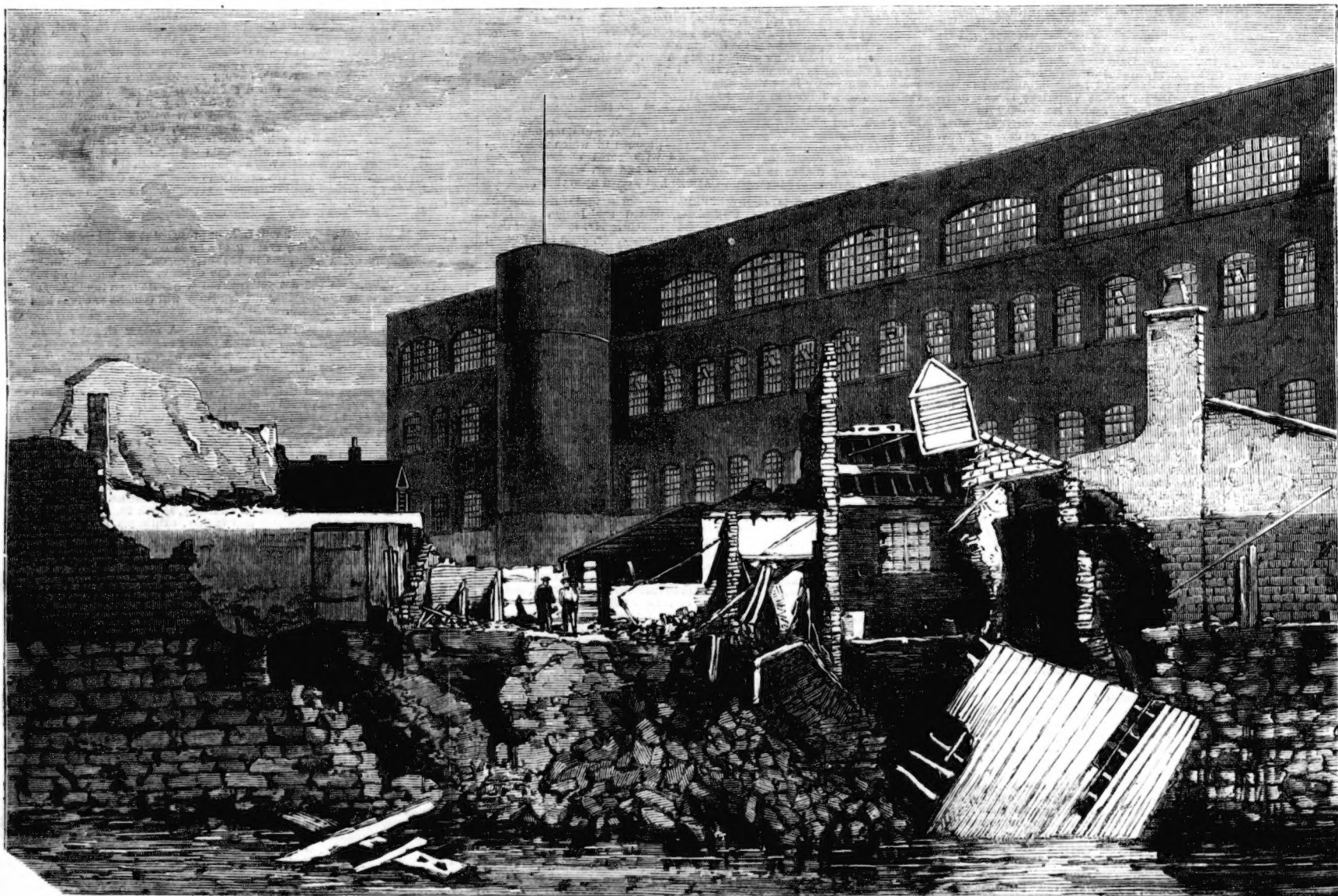
barge, with a crimson velvet canopy, and gilt tritons and water-nymphs as large as life at the bow and stern. He was conducted to the Foscari Palace, to a seat in a balcony hung with a splendid velvet drapery, and close to an alcove-like tribune, erected for the judges of the race. Close to Victor Emmanuel were the Prince of Carignano, Princes Humbert and Amadeus, and the Duchess of Genoa. Then the sports began. Starting from the Giardini Pubblici, a gondola with rowers in white and blue took the lead—kept it all the way to the Piazzetta—kept it past the Royal balcony—kept it through the Rialto and up the railway—kept it all the way back to the Foscari Palace, where white and blue were duly declared the winners.

The prize to the first gondola was 200*l.*; to the second, 100*l.*; to the third, 50*l.*; while the fourth—and a remarkably poor fourth he made—was entitled, according to immemorial tradition, to a live pig. In addition to this, the King very generously presented the competitors collectively with the sum of 2000*l.*; and again, in addition to this, the first and second prizemen went stepping about the Canalazzo, from gondola to gondola, all the afternoon, holding out their caps and begging for money, so that we may assume that, on the whole, they did not do badly by their exertions.

There was but one race; and immediately after the winner was declared, which was at about three o'clock, the serried ranks of gondolas were permitted to break bounds, and the entire canal became one myriad-hued mass of fragmentary aquatics, jostling, and striving, and bumping, and crashing in the most exciting and seemingly hazardous manner.

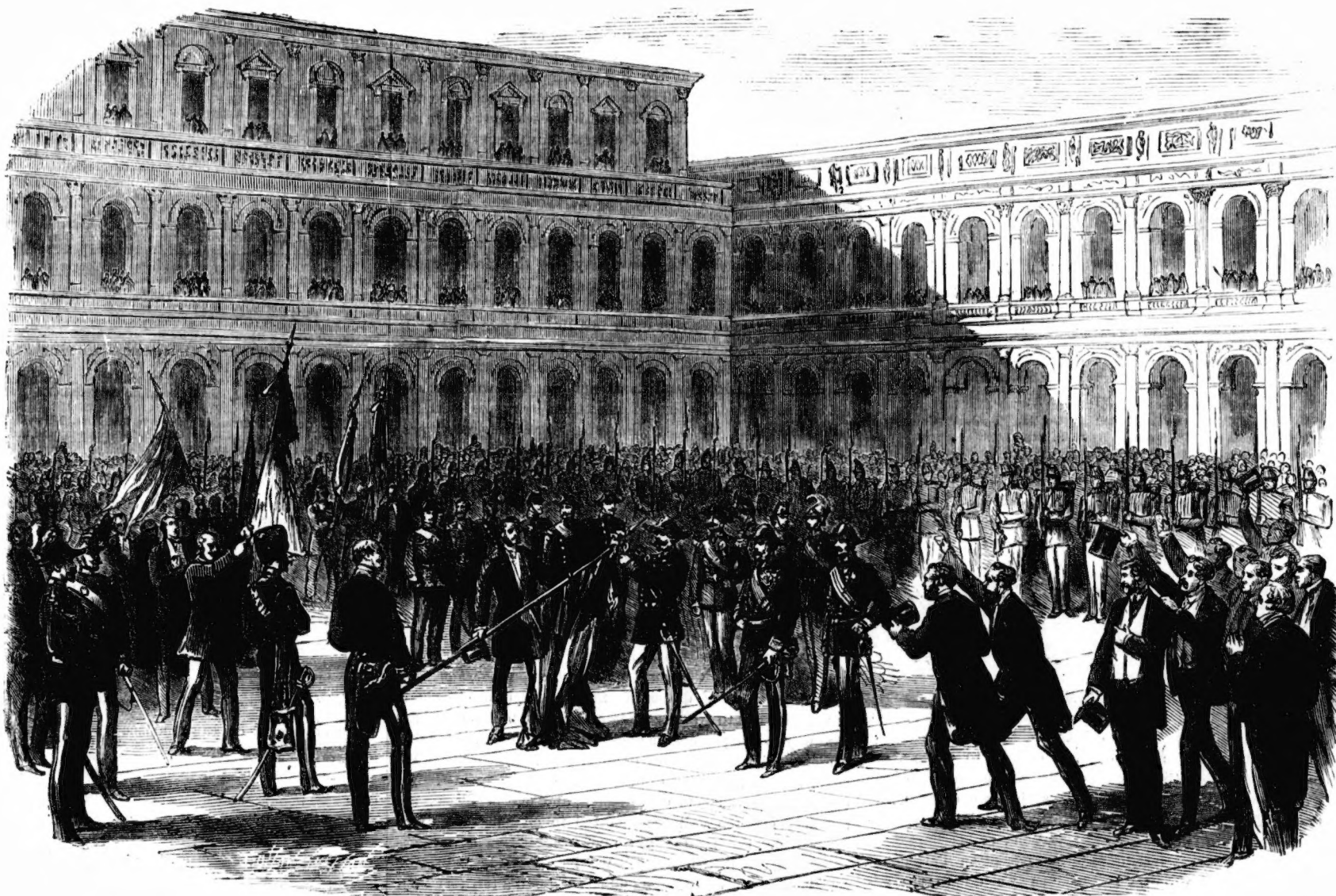
There were very likely 50,000 spectators, in boats, of the regatta, and 70,000 more on the embankments and at the windows of the palaces and houses of the Grand Canal. Although the racecourse extended along the entire length of the Riva de' Schiavoni, the real line began at the Piazzetta; and from the Royal Palace on one shore and Santa Maria della Salute on the other, to the Strada Ferrata and the Tolentini Gardens, the canal was fringed by two unbroken ranks of gondolas and boats and barges. When these ranks broke and the spectators were mingled in one great mass of life and colour, the effect was magnificent.

The Canalazzo was covered



SCENE AT LOCKETT AND CO'S COPPER-ROLLING WORKS AFTER THE FLOODS IN MANCHESTER

T H E F E T E S I N V E N I C E .



KING VICTOR EMMANUEL PLACING A GOLD MEDAL ON THE FLAG PRESENTED TO THE CITY BY THE VETERANS OF 1848-9.

until dusk with the almost countless host of holiday gondolas. The men-of-war in harbour were dressed in colours, and had their yards manned. At six o'clock there was a display of fireworks from San Giorgio Maggiore; and then all Venice rushed to the Piazza to see the "fairy illumination" of St. Mark, the Campanile, and the Procuratie.

It is impossible to describe the wonderful effect of the illuminations on that great water-way of the ancient city, and the astonishing results of following the architectural line of the buildings with rows of coloured lamps. The Venetians still believe in oil-lamps; and the soft, intense glow of the coloured globes is far more effective for great buildings than gas-jets. All that should be concealed is in shadow, and the vast piles of architecture are, as it were, fairylike and glorious simulations of solid structures

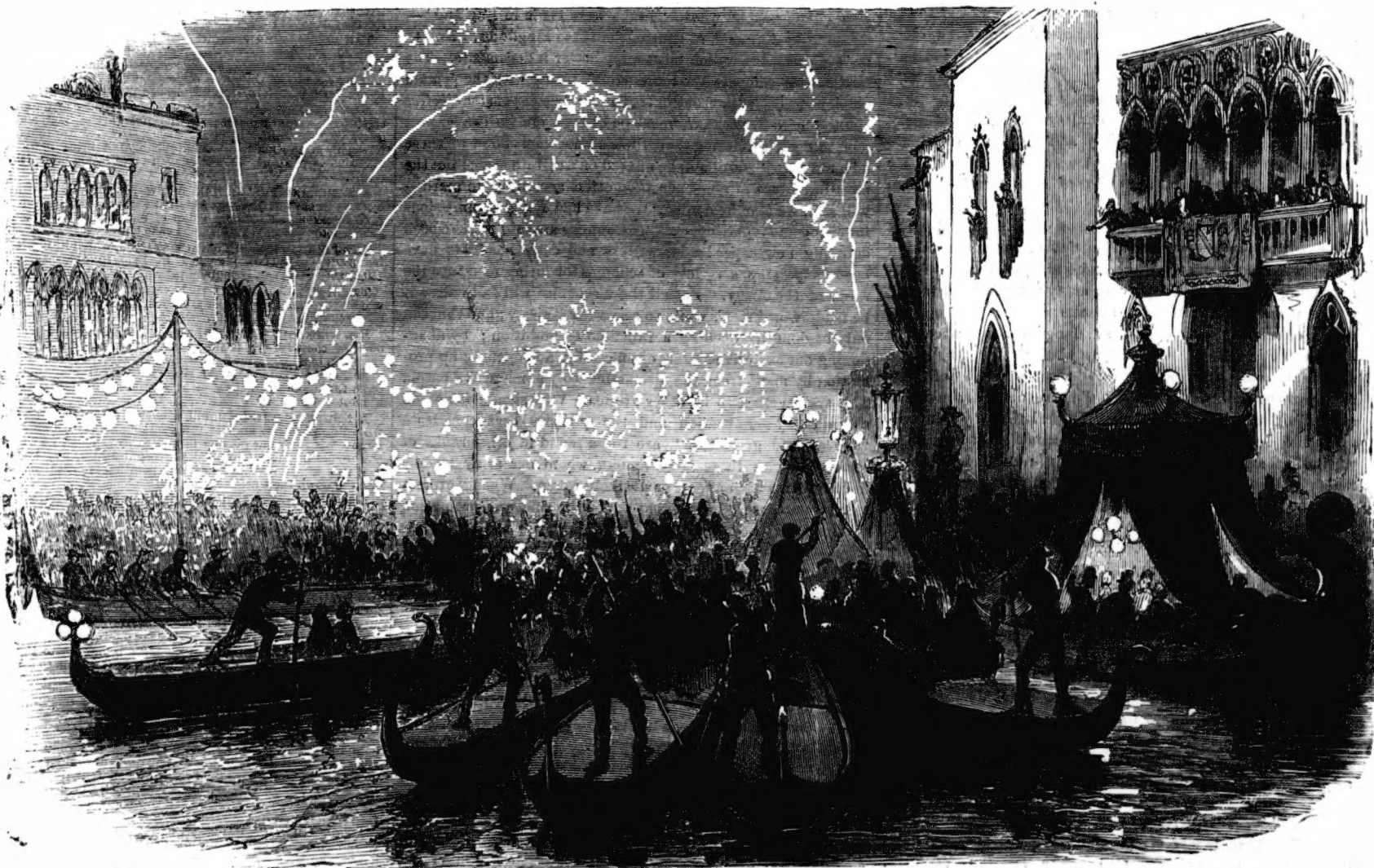
built in garnets and carbuncles, pearls and opals. The Dogana was one glowing palace of coloured fire on which stood the one colossal figure that surmounts the dome; and the Piazza, the Municipal Palace, and the pillars of Saint Mark's, were marvellous displays of light and colour, and that is all that can be said without the repetition of adjectives. It was, after all, on the Grand Canal, where illuminated gondolas floated all night long, crowded with spectators, that the great effects could be best observed; and it is one portion of this spectacle which is represented in our Engraving.

On the morning of that day, however, a ceremony had taken place which, plain and unpretentious as it was, had in it as much real significance as all the brilliant rejoicings that succeeded it.

The National Guard and the regiment of the garrison were drawn up in the Piazza of St. Mark, and in the midst of the square formed

by these were placed the veterans who served under Manin in 1848 and 1849, several of them dressed in their old uniform. Before them marched six of the oldest of their comrades, bearing the flags of the Venetian Republic, saved from the search of the Austrian police after the capitulation of 1849, and all in tatters. The King, on his arrival, alighted at the Piazza, surrounded by the Princes, the Minister of War, and a brilliant staff, approached the group of veterans, and, taking from the hands of General Cugias a ribbon, bearing a gold medal, hung it as a decoration upon the flag of the city of Venice, amidst the almost frantic acclamations of the people. Our Illustration represents the scene at the moment that his Majesty affixed the decoration.

The Engravings on pages 348 and 349 represent incidents fully described in our last week's Number (see page 323).



THE GRAND CANAL ON THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL.

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Private Theatricals. Drawn by M. Morgan.
The Exile's Return. Drawn by A. Slader.
Christmas at the North Pole. Drawn by C. James.
The Surprise. Drawn by C. Robinson.
Christmas on Board a Merchant Ship. Drawn by H. D. Friston.
The Convalescent. After a Sketch by A. Slader.
The Christmas Song. Drawn by H. D. Friston.
Christmas Eve at the Old Bailey.
A Block on the Line.

The Number will also contain the following

TALES AND POEMS:—

The Story of Peter Grewel and the Holly Goblin. By James Greenwood.
My Brougham and My Pegasus. By W. B. Rands.
Christmas on a Roof. By Tom Hood.
Lost Since Last Christmas. By Sheldon Chadwick.
A Story Spilled in the Telling. By T. Archer.
Other Articles, and all the News of the Week.



OUR JUDGES.

WE "Britishers," as the Yankees delight to call us, are much given to boasting of our national institutions and of the freedom—political, religious, and social—we enjoy under them. These boasts, though possibly somewhat too ostentatiously made, are not without justification; and perhaps there is not one of these institutions—not excepting Parliament itself—to which we owe so much as we do to the administration of justice. As a rule, the character and conduct of the Judges of Great Britain in these days are such as to be an honour, as well as a blessing, to any people. To clear intellects, sound knowledge of law, occasional high scholarship, polished manners, and dignified demeanour, the men who preside in our superior courts of law almost invariably add unswerving integrity and a conscientious industry which nothing wearies and which never relax. Of a verity, her Judges are men of whom Great Britain may well be proud. And this is true, whatever may have been the political party to which they have belonged. Lawyers may—indeed, almost always do—win position and secure promotion in party warfare, and by rendering service to one or other of the great political sects which contend for sway among us; but once raised to the Bench, once privileged to wear the ermine, the partisan is lost in the judge, the political character is merged in the judicial. Our Judges care nothing for the persons, social rank, or political connections of those who appear before them. These things influence them not. Their sole anxiety is to truly interpret and administer the law—to fairly and equitably distribute justice.

Verily, we say again, an order of men these of whom their country has reason to be proud, and for whose labours their fellow-citizens have cause to be grateful. The present time—when so many judicial changes are taking place, when so many familiar and honoured faces are disappearing from the Bench, and so many new ones are taking their place—is peculiarly appropriate for noting the high character which has so long distinguished the Judges of England, for congratulating the public on the fact, and for holding up the example of past and present occupants of the Bench to the admiration and imitation of their successors. The Earl of Derby's Government has had singularly large opportunities of recruiting the judicial administration of the country; and it is well that it should be so. The long tenure of office enjoyed by the Liberals had pretty well exhausted the stock of materials among them out of which good Judges are made. There were numerous eminent lawyers in the Conservative ranks well able to render good service to their country, as they had already done to their party; and it is good for the country that they should be afforded the opportunity. Though Liberals ourselves, we grudge not to the Conservative lawyers the run of promotion they have lately experienced. May they long enjoy their honours; when their career is run, may they retire as full of reverence as does Chief Justice Erle; and should it be their fate to die—as the late Lord Justice Knight Bruce may be said to have actually done—"with harness on their backs," may they leave behind them a name as profoundly respected as that venerated Judge has done!

LAWYERS AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

THE fact that few of the present occupants of the judicial bench—and, we believe, still fewer of the recently-appointed law officers—are University men, has been made the theme of remark in some quarters, and it has even been insinuated that this is a matter of reproach to them. If there

be ground for reproach in any quarter, it seems to us that it is not to these gentlemen, but to the Universities, that the odium attaches. If University training be desirable in our legal functionaries—and we do not by any means dispute that—there must be some reason either why University-trained men do not succeed at the Bar, or why men who intend to devote themselves to the law as a profession do not go to the Universities to be trained. The Universities must either not afford a training that gives special advantages to their alumni, or an equally good education can be obtained elsewhere. As able lawyers, as good Judges, are turned out by other educational institutions as those who may have graduated at Oxford and Cambridge. There is, confessedly, no inferiority in the quality of the product; and, seeing that those who make their way to the front ranks of the profession are not now usually University-trained men, the inevitable inference is, either that the Universities do not train well, or that other institutions train better. It is for the Universities, therefore, to look to it, and see that their machinery is equal to the work it is assumed to perform; to overhaul their organisation, and inquire whether any reforms are needed there to keep them *en rapport* with the requirements of the age. Perhaps, were University professors—some of them, we mean—less absorbed in impressing upon their students the importance of empty formalities and gaudy vestments—less taken up, in short, with the great petticoat, man-millinery, and priestly-power questions—they might have more time to devote to imparting that thorough mental cultivation which is necessary to fit men to be useful and meritorious public servants at the Bar, on the Bench, in the Senate, the Council-chamber, and the Pulpit.

ARMY ORGANISATION.

MILITARY organisation is a matter that bulks largely in public attention all the world over just at present, and is, of course, the theme of discussion in this country as elsewhere. It is impossible to overrate its importance, though we need not give way to idle panic fears about invasion. To us, as to other peoples, efficient means of defence are indispensable. We have, however, peculiar difficulties to contend against. We cannot have recourse to conscription, and our population are too busy and too well remunerated in civil pursuits to be tempted by the meagre pay and insignificant advantages offered in the British Army. We have, besides, to provide for the defence of so large and so scattered a territory—our colonies and dependencies are so numerous and so wide apart—that but a small portion of our regular Army is at any time available for the defence of our own shores should they be attacked. Without at all undervaluing the pluck of British soldiers, or believing that they would in any circumstances belie the "mettle of their pasture," we fear the time is past when it would be wise to rely upon the fancy that the equal of three Frenchmen—or men of any country—walks upon each pair of English legs. The time is past, too, when our own levies might be supplemented by mercenaries. We can no longer hire "Hessians" or any other foreign troops. We cannot get them, and it would be unwise to have them if we could. That people must be far gone on the path of decline which fights its battles by proxy. Our soldiers, then, must be our own citizens—men whose "limbs were made in England"—meaning by England, of course, the three kingdoms. And to get such men the nation must offer better inducements. The public must compete on more equal terms with the private employer. Better pay, better treatment, better pensions, *better chances of advancement*, must be offered ere we can expect men to make soldiering their life's occupation. Some of these advantages will, no doubt, be offered on a certain scale; but the most important of all—open promotion according to merit—will still, we fear, be denied. We have had Royal Commissions inquiring and reporting, Cabinet Councils are said to have been debating, newspaper leader-writers and correspondents have been canvassing, a variety of schemes for luring men into the ranks of the Army. But all these schemes will fail unless it be made worth men's while to serve her Majesty; and that can only be done by opening a fair field to ambition; by abandoning our exclusive system of officering, and opening up promotion by merit from the drumstick to the marshal's baton. This system answers in other armies. Why should it not do so in ours? Education and the qualities that constitute "officers and gentlemen" are to be found in other ranks of society besides those from among whom our army leaders have hitherto been almost exclusively taken. When "promotion by purchase" has ceased to be the rule, and promotion by merit has become the law—when ambition shall have fair scope—when rank, and emolument, and fame, and command shall be placed within the grasp of all—the military spirit of our countrymen will again revive, as we believe, and Great Britain will not lack soldiers so woefully as she does now.

MR. J. D. COLERIDGE, Q.C., M.P., has consented to preside at a soirée in connection with the early-closing movement, which is to be held on Monday next, at St. James's Hall. The Hon. Captain R. W. Grosvenor, M.P., Dr. J. Riden Bennett, and several gentlemen connected with large houses of business, will advocate the object of the movement.

A YOUNG MAN, who has passed under the name of George Olsen, and who has been engaged as a lamp-trimmer on board the United States steamer Madawaska, has just discovered that he is a Hungarian nobleman, that his true title is Edward Louis, Count Batthyani, and that he is the owner of an immense estate. He has already received 200,000 dols. as a portion of the money due to him, and is now in Washington, under the protection of the Austrian Ambassador, trying to get his discharge from the United States naval service.

THE NEGRO ACTOR IRA ALDRIDGE has had a great success at Versailles in "Othello." The theatrical performance was preceded by a dinner, given to the stars of the literary world, at the Hôtel des Réservoirs. Alexandre Dumas was among the last to arrive, and sat next to M. Barrière. The prince of romancists was in full force, and related more anecdotes during the hour devoted to dinner than an ordinary man would have remembered in a month. The Versailles Theatre was crammed to suffocation.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has sent an order to Newtown, in Shropshire, for a large quantity of Welsh flannel and red flannel cloaks, for charitable distribution.

THE POPE has invited the Empress of the French and the Prince Imperial to pass the Christmas holidays in the Eternal City.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has resolved to pay a visit in a few days to the King of Portugal, at Lisbon.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has sent his portrait, with an autograph letter, to Lord Denbigh, chairman of the committee established in London during the late war to raise funds in aid of the Austrian wounded.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE OF MEXICO is now said to have become raving mad, tearing her garments and refusing nourishment.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Lady Victoria Cecil, youngest daughter of the Marquis of Exeter, and the Hon. W. C. Evans Freke, of Glaston Hall, Rutland, a brother of Lord Carbery.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE, of Edinburgh, having challenged Mr. Bright, Mr. Beales, or Mr. Ernest Jones to discuss the question of democracy, Mr. Ernest Jones has accepted the challenge.

MR. SEYMOUR-FITZGERALD, who has been gazetted Governor of Bombay, will, it is said, leave this country shortly before Christmas to assume the governorship of the presidency early in the new year.

MRS. STANTON, who was a candidate for Congress for one of the New York districts, only received eight votes.

THE RUSSIANS are steadily advancing in Central Asia, the last stronghold of the Emir of Bokhara having been captured by assault.

MDLLE. ROSA BONHEUR has nearly completed a large picture of cattle and drovers in the Highlands.

A MAN who took part in the capture of the Bastille has just died at Bresset, at the age of 107 years.

MR. MOENS, whose romantic sojourn with the Italian brigands excited so much attention last year, has purchased an estate at Boldre, near Lymington, in Hampshire.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between the Hon. Miss Baillie Cochrane, daughter of Mr. Baillie Cochrane, M.P. for Heniton, and the Hon. W. West, second son of the Earl of Delaware.

M. KAULLA, banker, at Stuttgart, has gained the lot of 300,000 florins at the last lottery in Austria, being another exemplification of the proverb "L'eau va toujours à la rivière."

GENERAL DIX, the new American Minister at Paris, has sailed from the United States, and will in a few days relieve Mr. Bigelow in the French capital.

THE TOMB STATUE OF HENRY, eldest son of Henry II. of England and brother to Richard I., has been discovered during recent excavations in Rouen Cathedral.

THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY intend building a magnificent hotel in Lime-street, Liverpool, at a cost of £100,000.

MR. GARTH, Q.C., Conservative, and Mr. Poock, Liberal, have issued addresses to the electors of Guildford, in consequence of Sir W. Bovill's elevation to the Bench.

RUSSIA has set about the work of converting a number of her old muskets into new breechloaders.

GOVERNMENT have decided to accept the gift of a plot of ground in Bethnal-green, and to establish a museum of science and art there, which will be open in the evening.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE CARLISLE TESTIMONIAL have decided on recommending to a general meeting of the subscribers that the memorial should be a statue, to be erected in or near Dublin.

THE TUNNELING OF MONT CENIS has been completed to one half its extent. The perforation now extends 6110 metres, and strong hopes are entertained that the entire work will be completed in three years.

THE WHEAT CROP OF ILLINOIS last year was sufficient to feed the population of the globe for two days, and would have filled a store 8 ft. high, 8 ft. wide, and 3300 miles long.

MR. CYRUS W. FIELD, of Atlantic Telegraph celebrity, who failed in 1860, has notified his creditors that he is prepared to pay their claims, with interest.

THE UNSIGHTLY BLOCK OF HOUSES lying between Wych-street and the Strand is to come down, so that there will be a clear line between the churches of St. Mary and St. Clement Danes.

A NEW TORY WEEKLY JOURNAL is announced. The *Monitor* is the title of a "Wednesday review of politics, literature, science, and art," which will "faithfully represent Constitutional principles, and boldly apply them to the consideration and criticism of passing events."

MR. MCCLURE, of the Vancouver Island Legislature, recently spoke for seventeen consecutive hours, in order to defeat a bill.

THE BISHOP OF MONTAUBAN has issued a pastoral letter speaking of the evils which threaten the Church and ordaining a *triduum*, or three days' prayer, for the Sovereign Pontiff and the Church on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of December.

THE FRENCH IRON-CLAD FRIGATE LA GLOIRE, which figured at the great international meeting of the French and English fleets last year, has been put out of commission, and now lies a hulk at Toulon.

A DUEL between Count Glam-Gallas and Marshal Benedek is considered probable, as the former has published a pamphlet on the recent war, in which he stigmatises the Marshal as "a liar."

IN A NOBLEMAN'S PARK, about ten miles from Hyde Park-corner, the following notice is stuck up:—"Ten shillings reward. Any person found trespassing on these lands, or damaging these fences, on conviction will receive the above reward."

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL OF HONG-KONG has represented that he is unable to obtain receipts for registered letters sent to his office addressed to the Philippine Islands, and has requested that the practice of registering letters so addressed may be discontinued. No letters for the Philippine Islands will, therefore, in future be accepted for registration.

MR. WM. DARGAN, the Irish contractor, has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors; the liabilities are estimated at £150,000. The assets consist mainly of about £300,000 of railway securities, which, if forced upon the market, would probably not bring more than an average of about 44 per cent, but with care in realisation may yield a much better result.

A PARISIAN SAUSAGE-MAKER gives out that a gold five-franc piece is inserted in one out of every hundred sausages exposed for sale in his shop. A perfumer also advertises cakes of soap for sale, and announces that a golden louis lies imbedded in one cake out of every hundred.

THE PRODUCTION OF POSTAGE-STAMPS, which in France only amounted in 1849 to 19,000,000, increased in 1865 to 414,000,000, and will reach 450,000,000 this year. England prints 800,000,000 annually.

TWELVE FATAL ACCIDENTS have happened on Mont Blanc since 1786, when the mountain was first ascended, by Saussure. Six of these accidents occurred in the present year.

MR. ALEXANDER HERSCHEL has recently succeeded in subjecting another order of the heavenly bodies to prismatic analysis. He has obtained the spectrum of a bright meteor and also the spectra of some of the trains which meteors leave behind them. A remarkable result of his observations appears to be that sodium, in the state of luminous vapour, is present in the trains of most meteors.

A NEWLY-MARRIED COUPLE attended a launch in Newburyport lately. A staging gave way and let the gentleman into the water. Before he was rescued his wig came off and floated away. When he was pulled out, bald and drenched, his wife refused to recognise him, and besought the crowd that they would save her husband, pointing frantically to a bunch of hair drifting down the tide.

A NEW MAGNET of considerable power has been introduced by M. Greis, consisting of a long spiral iron or steel film, such as is obtained from iron-turning. According to M. Greis, the south pole of such a magnet is always at that end of the spiral which the instrument has first touched. He also states that the magnetism of these spirals is of a very permanent nature.

MR. JAMES BEVAN BOWAN, of Llwyrwgair, has been elected, without opposition, to represent Pembrokeshire in Parliament, in the room of the late Mr. George Lort Phillips. Mr. Bowan avowed his willingness to vote for a well-considered scheme of Parliamentary reform, which he believes may be introduced by the present Government. He is prepared to see Dissenters relieved from the payment of church rates.

A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG MEN belonging to the provinces incorporated by Prussia have taken refuge in Switzerland to avoid the obligation of military service to which all able-bodied citizens are liable in Prussia. The Cabinet of Berlin has addressed some reclamations on this subject to the Helvetic Government, which has requested the cantonal authorities to forward a report on the matter.

A SUBSCRIPTION has been opened for the erection of a central hall and club in connection with the Working Men's Club and Institute; and, amongst others, the following contributions have been received:—The Duke of Bedford, £100; Mr. Henry Hoare, £100; Lord Overstone, £25; the Duke of Devonshire, £50; Mr. Titus Salt, £100; Sir F. Goldsmid, Bart., £25; Vice-Chancellor Sir Page Wood, £10; the Duke of Buccleuch, £50, &c.

A POLICEMAN OF FAISLEY was going his usual rounds one night lately when he observed a man leaning against a pillar letter-box at the corner of a street, with one arm thrown round it and his head bent towards it in close proximity. The officer quietly came up behind the man, and overheard him very earnestly relating to the letter-box some adventure in which he had that day been engaged. After some time the policeman accosted him, and found that the man's perceptive faculties were so muddled with drink that he had mistaken the metal pillar for a confidential friend.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"GREAT men are not always wise," said a venerable patriarch some thousands of years ago; and every day we have proofs that the saying is as true now as it was then, and here is one:—The Duke of Somerset is officially a great man, if not otherwise; and he has always had the reputation of being a wise man. When he sat in the House of Commons, as Lord Seymour, he was listened to with attention and respect whenever he condescended to speak, which was not often; for generally he is silent, reserved, and haughty. But it was not because he was the heir of a dukedom that we listened to him, for the House cares little for that sort of thing—it will give the cold shoulder to the heir of a dukedom as promptly as it would to a cotton spinner; nor was it because he is eloquent, for he is not; but because he was thought to be a clear-headed, wise man. He has, however, lately proved that he is not *always* wise: for example, the promotion of Lieutenant Brand immediately after the Jamaica affair, in which the Lieutenant took so questionable a part, was certainly not a wise, but a very foolish, act. True, the promotion was not much: the gallant gentleman was only lifted from a tender to a gun-boat; but it was a promotion, and showed that the Duke wished it to be known that he desired to affix his *probatum est* upon the conduct of the Lieutenant. The public almost unanimously reprobated Mr. Brand's conduct. Even the Conservative papers scarcely whispered approval, and the Royal Commissioners certainly gave no sign of justification. The Duke, however, promoted him; and, by so doing, no doubt meant it to be understood that he thought that the Lieutenant deserved reward and not censure. Now, this was a very foolish, and I may say an indecent, thing to do; and I have no doubt that this promotion encouraged this frisky blockhead to write his insolent letter to Mr. Buxton. Sir John Pakington, while determining to suspend the Lieutenant, entertains faintly, one would imagine, a hope that the letter is a hoax. But Brand's friends say they are sure that he wrote it; it is so like him. It has already been stated in the papers that Lieutenant Brand is not related to the Dacre family, and all must be glad to know this. Mr. Henry Brand has a son in the Navy, and it was feared by many that this might be Mr. Henry Brand's son; and it was very pleasant to all who know the father to have this matter set right. But the Lieutenant is "somebody's bairn," and perhaps the father is still alive. If so, though no one can pity the son, everybody will commiserate the father.

The Rev. James Martineau was a candidate for the chair of philosophy of mind and logic in the University of London, vacated by the resignation of Dr. Hoppus, and was rejected; and straightway there arose a universal shriek, the *Daily Telegraph* leading on the pack of shriekers, about Mr. Martineau being rejected because he is a Unitarian preacher. Now, this is sad illogical stuff. Being a Unitarian preacher, Mr. Martineau was rejected; but it does not follow, and indeed is not true, that he was rejected *because* he is a Unitarian preacher. The simple truth is that he was rejected because he is not considered to be an efficient mental philosopher and logician: nor is he. He is an eloquent preacher, and no doubt has, like all the Martineaus, considerable abilities; but nobody ever heard of him as an eminent mental philosopher; and, moreover, his philosophy, such as it is, is, without going into particulars, not exactly the philosophy which is taught at the University of London.

"Ecce Homo," that wonderful book which Gladstone sat up all night to read, and which the Earl of Shaftesbury—who never probably read it at all—declared was "vomited from the jaws of hell," was written by Professor Seeley, Vice-Dean of the University of London—at least, so says Rumour; and, as Professor Seeley has not denied the soft impeachment, I suppose it is true. Professor Seeley is the son of Mr. Seeley, late publisher in Fleet-street; I say late, for, though the old gentleman is still living, he has, I believe, long since retired from business. Mr. Seeley, senior, was the publisher mainly of Evangelical books, and was always thought to be of the straightest of the Evangelical sect. This book by his son, then, must, one would fancy, be a sore trouble to him in his old days. To think that a son of his should have written a book of which that notable defender of the faith, Lord Shaftesbury, declared that it was vomited—to put it mildly—from the bottomless pit, must be very painful to good old Mr. Seeley.

If the House of Commons will sanction the scheme and grant the money, we are to have the Thames Embankment continued from the Houses of Parliament to join the noble road that runs in front of Millbank Prison to the back of Chelsea Hospital. This is to be made by the Government Office of Works, and the Metropolitan Board will carry on the work from Chelsea Hospital to Battersea Bridge. On the completion of these works we shall have a road by the river side, except the curve inwards round the Houses of Parliament, from Battersea Bridge to Blackfriars; and truly a grand road it will be. Moreover, there is, as you know, to be a road, beginning at Blackfriars Bridge and ending somewhere near the Bank. The powers to make this have, I believe, been already granted. When this shall be completed there will be a broad, handsome thoroughfare from the Bank to Cremorne. But when? Ay, there's the rub! The City part of the road is not begun, the works on the embankment between Westminster and Blackfriars are at a standstill, and grass is growing where traffic ought by this time to be flowing. But all will be finished some time, I suppose. Meanwhile the plans for the new embankments are deposited, or will be before your readers get this week's Paper.

The Conservative lawyers are in luck. Vice-Chancellor Kindersley has resigned, and Mr. Malins has got the place; which I am glad to hear, for, though at times Mr. Malins was a sad bore in the House, he is a good, kindly, and upright man. He is out of Parliament now. His seat at Wallingford was stolen from him last year by Sir Wentworth Dilke, to the sore annoyance of Mr. Malins, who loved the House, and no doubt hoped by a turn of Fortune's wheel to step from the House to the Bench. However, though out of the House, he has not been forgotten. Mr. Malins is over sixty, and this vice-chancellorship, with its £5000 a year, will be very pleasant and acceptable to him. Report says that Sir George Turner, one of the Lords Justices, is to retire, and that Attorney-General Rolt is to have this appointment. But this report wants confirmation. One hardly sees how the Government can spare Rolt, for at present they have no Solicitor-General in the House. Mr. Karlake is to have that post if he can get into Parliament. He is a candidate for Colchester; but Mr. Miller, it is said, does not mean to resign till a general election shall occur. Doubtless though, if pushed, he will consent to serve his party, which he so faithfully served for many years, by leaving the House and serving them no more.

A volume of the "Curiosities of Criticism" would be a most amusing book. I have just come on a funny instance, which I present to anyone who is willing to take my suggestion and set about compiling the work. The *Athenæum* art-critic, in his notice of Mr. Wallis's exhibition a week or so since, gave us a little detailed criticism on a picture by the new Associate, Mr. Erskine Nicoll, entitled "Bad News." Unfortunately, it happens that, at that time, the picture had not quitted Mr. Nicoll's studio—it was inserted in the catalogue, but not finished in time for the exhibition. This reminds one of Great Exhibition Guide-book business, when Mr. Adams, the sculptor, proved that the author of that book had condemned a work he had not seen. I wonder whether the *Athenæum* critique is by the same hand.

What has seized the reviewers of the art-books this year? Are they smitten with a sheep-like tendency to "follow their leader" into any absurdity? A dead set is being made at one or two young draughtsmen for the heinous crime of originality, and writers who don't appear to know the difference between an etching and a lithograph, and are ignorant of the chief characteristics of wood engraving, pronounce grave judgment on subjects they don't understand, in a way that would be amusing if it were not unjust and unkind to artists who labour earnestly and conscientiously at their art. Mr. Pinwell and Mr. Houghton this Christmas have come beneath the critical ban, and are made subjects of sweeping condemnation. Now, I don't say they are faultless; but at least let them have full credit for the integrity and industry their work shows—and it shows noble qualities besides these. The writers of notices seem to want that

catholic appreciation of all schools of art which can admire a Turner without denouncing a Stanfield, and value a Creswick without underrating a Maccallum. There are some things by these two artists in the art-books of the year which the learned in wood-engravings admit to be as remarkable as they are original. Fair play for all, if you please, Messieurs the Reviewers!

A trustworthy correspondent sends a curious account of the present state of affairs at Portland—that wild stone rock, miscalled an island, and connected with the Dorset coast by the long pebbly beach of Chesil. It seems that the "island" is in a state of division on account of a project for the introduction of gas. There is only one regular street in Portland, and this is known as Fortune's Well. The proposition to light this has created great excitement; for the inhabitants of Portland (except the floating population of convicts, warders, and soldiery) are almost to a man smugglers. Small shops are kept open, in many cases, only by way of cover for the purchase and sale of smuggled goods. The soldiers and the labourers like the dull, dark, nightly condition of the street for reasons upon which it would be unnecessary for me to dilate. There are but two policemen at Portland; and, of course, they cannot desire to see too much. The Governor, who is aged, has been for months, if not actually bed-ridden, at least confined to his room. When a few decent inhabitants hold a meeting to support the introduction of gas-lighting, they are set upon by a crowd of fishermen and quarrymen, bullied, insulted, thrown into the road, and half murdered. One lamp-post was set up by way of experiment, and the "roughs" threatened that it should not stand a week.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

First come, first served; and Miss Braddon's *Belgravia* is first—a regular early bird, indeed, up betimes to catch the worm. I can honestly praise the present number. Besides the staple matter, there are miscellanies which are capital. Dr. Scoffern is rather blatant about Mr. Snider; but his account of that unfortunate gentleman is very interesting. Mr. Mortimer Collins takes us "Through Cornwall," and I have often spoken warmly of these gossiping papers of his. When I first read them I used to suppose he was an old-fashioned fellow of about seventy—a sort of cross between Hutton of Birmingham, Major Pendennis, and Leigh Hunt. I had a distinct photograph of him in my mind—a nice old man—codger is the word, Mr. Editor, if you will excuse it. I say, a nice old codger, with gold spectacles, inspecting a bill of fare at the table of a country inn, and asking if he couldn't have some trout for breakfast to-morrow morning. The photograph didn't repeat what he said, you know; but I could see it in the corner of his mouth—it distinctly said "trout for breakfast." I used to fancy him rather "stingy," too. Other pleasing articles in *Belgravia* are the one "On Balls," and "The Friendly Chop"—No. II. of the Prose Ballads. My firm belief is, that Miss Braddon has enticed Walt Whitman over to England, and corrupted him, by means of good feeding and going out and about, till he has come down to "this complexion." Poor Walt! The story I can't say I like. It isn't my fault, is it?

The *Cornhill* so enchants me by its woodcuts this month that I must take time to look at the contents; I will return to it next week. Mr. Walker and Miss Edwards are evidently on their mettle this time. The number would be worth buying if it were only for the sake of the two chief drawings.

By-the-by, we shall all be looking out for Mr. Trollope's "Last Chronicle of Barset," a new and interesting experiment to say nothing else.

Dr. Johnson was one day crying up "knowledge, knowledge, knowledge, Sir!" to Boswell, on board a Thames wherry—which, of course, had been taken at Temple Stairs—you may have observed that boats always were taken "at Temple Stairs." Boswell said, "Yet, Sir, this boy rows us just as well as if he knew all about the Argonauts." "Why, yes, Sir," said the Doctor; but, turning to the boy, went on—"My lad, what would you give to know all about the Argonauts?" "Sir," answered the boy, "I would give what I have." Dr. Johnson was so pleased with this not very exciting answer that he paid the boy a double fee, and remarked to Boswell—"Sir, the desire of knowledge is natural to the human mind, which, when undebauched, would give all it possesses for knowledge." This anecdote was suggested to me by the new number of the *Argosy*. Yet I don't see, upon consideration, what it has to do with it. But what of that? It is of the very essence of wit to bring together unconnected things. I make you a present of the anecdote; I give it you "in." As Jean Paul said, "There are important conclusions to be drawn from this anecdote—and I advise you to draw them." In the meanwhile, pray step aside, and admire with me the enterprise and the heroic love of good literature which projected and keeps up a magazine like the *Argosy*. Can it possibly pay at sixpence a number?—a hundred and twenty pages of high-class literature, with at least two good illustrations? It seems impossible. I once forced myself into the presence of the proprietor (he is a most formidable-looking man, and sports a Ballybothershin persuader), and went down on my knees to him to induce him to make it a shilling. No; he was resolute. "Ninety-nine, then," said I, with the tears in my eyes. "Never," he exclaimed, inexorable as Cato; and I was sternly bowed out of his sanctum. Now, as the magazine is worth half a crown a number, it is plain, according to Cocker, that two shillings must be lost on every number that is sold. How, then, can it pay? A thought strikes me. I remember the old girl who, praising her ale, said she lost a farthing a pot by it. "Then, dame, how do you make it pay?" said a thirsty soul. "Pay?" says she; "it's the quantity as does it." Exactly: the *Argosy* sells so many copies that all the difficulties which cling to The Unconditioned rise up to shelter it with clouds of mystery and check profane inquiry—see Professor Bampsel *passim*, on the "Limits of Litigious Thought" (is that the title?). Well, whether it pays or not, is not our business. Lovely Thais sits beside thee, take the goods the gods provide thee, and buy thine *Argosy*, like an Alexander's Feast. In the number which commences the new volume there is a fresh story, from which great things are expected—to say nothing of minor stories, sketches, and poems. I see, for example, in the list of contents, "The History of Robert Falconer, Part I.—His Boyhood, Chaps. 1-5" (that is the leading story); then "How they Open the Session at 'Guy's,' which, surely, is a hopeful and quite novel topic; then "The Art of Growing Old," which especially concerns pretty women; and a poem by Miss M. B. Smedley. This isn't half, either. There is one "to present Wall," and one "to present Moonshine," and one "to present Lion," and so "I hope we have a play well fitted." The other contents must be seen to be appreciated, as Dr. Johnson said when he acted as showman to the Cock-lane Ghost. You never heard that before? Probably not; but do you think I'm here to tell you nothing but what everybody knows?

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Your Theatrical Lounger has had a hard time of it of late. Probably, so many new pieces have never before been produced in a single month in London; and certainly the number of abject failures that he has witnessed during that period is unprecedented in the dramatic history of the last ten years. "Ethel" was a failure, "Barnaby Rudge" was a failure, "Oonagh" was a failure; "The Frozen Deep" is only moderately successful; the "Dangerous Friend" has proved a very dangerous succubus to Mr. Buckstone; "Antony and Cleopatra" is a failure; and to this beggarly account must be added the burlesque of "Faust," at the OLYMPIC, and Messrs. Tom Taylor and Dubourg's drama, "A Sister's Penance," at the ADELPHI. The two last pieces were favourably received, it is true, on the first nights of their representation; but there is very little chance that either of them will run over Christmas, if, indeed, they contrive to retain their places in their respective bills until then. "Faust," in the matter of silliness, beats the productions of Messrs. Best and Bellingham out of the field altogether. It was produced at the Strand Theatre, I believe, about ten years since, and was then principally remarkable for the very excellent imitation of Mr. Charles Kean given by the author, Mr. Halford,

who, under the name, I think, of Hammond, played the part of Mephistopheles. Mr. Halford has taken the incidents of the version played at Drury Lane, and introduced them, almost in their exact order, into his burlesque, paraphrasing the dialogue of Goethe with cockney English, and interspersing the incidents with nigger airs and break-downs. The piece is utterly free from anything in the shape of a good pun or parody, and it ends with one of the gloomiest scenes ever produced on the stage. Such novelties as "Ole Dan Tucker," "Buffalo Gals," and "Billy Taylor" crop up throughout the piece, which not even the intense fun of their being sung by Mr. Dominick Murray as Marguerite, in a flaxen wig and frilled drawers, can redeem from commonplace. Miss Farren played Faust with her customary animal spirits; but she seemed to be sadly clogged by the nonsense she had to say and sing. Miss Sheridan made the most of Valentine, Mr. Vincent played Mephistopheles quite as well as Mr. Phelps, and Mr. Terrott sang his song in the second scene (which is the best scene in the piece) with capital effect. The dresses are extremely good, but the scenery and other appointments are not.

A "Sister's Penance" is a very clumsy piece of nonsense. Alice and Marion Vernon love Markham, an engineer, and Markham loves Marion, but is insensible to the charms of Alice. So Alice, to revenge herself, gives him a letter written by Marion to a Mr. Drayton, declining a proposal of marriage, and induces him to think that he is the person to whom the letter is addressed. Markham goes to India, a bachelor, Alice follows him with her uncle, and Marion eventually marries Drayton. In the second act, which takes place in India, Ammedoolah, agent to the Rajah of Hazareepore, proposes to Alice, is rejected by her, and stirs up the sepoys to revolt in order to get possession of her by main force. The rebellion is, however, suppressed in about five minutes, and Ammedoolah escapes, but without his victim. In the third act, which takes place in England, Ammedoolah appears, disguised as a lascar, and poisons some medicine which is prepared by Markham, but taken by Alice. On discovering his mistake, Ammedoolah leaps over a precipice and is killed; and Alice, who believes she is going to die, reveals to her sister, Marion, the history of her treachery. However, Marion's husband dies, and a servant confesses that she diluted Ammedoolah's poison to such an extent as to render it harmless. So Alice survives the accident, and Markham marries Marion. The piece is very clumsily put together and the incidents are unnatural, but it is acted as few pieces have the good luck to be. Miss Kate Terry is as delicate, as ladylike, and, when necessary, as impassioned as usual. Mr. Herman Vezin plays the part of Markham as no other actor on the English stage could play it. He has very little to do in the first act, but in the second and third acts he is seen to the very greatest advantage. Mr. Billington as Ammedoolah, and Mr. Ashley as a prosy army doctor, left nothing whatever to be desired. Miss Hughes (who played a part wholly unworthy of her very great talent) proved herself to be a most important addition to the company; and Mr. Stephenson, as an old Indian Colonel, acquitted himself as well as he did in "Ethel"—which is saying a great deal. There are two ridiculously conventional low-comedy parts in the piece, one of which should be cut out altogether, and the other materially reduced. The piece was very favourably received—a fact which must be attributed entirely to the admirable manner in which it was played. A call for the authors was raised at the end of the piece, which elicited a hideous threat on the part of Mr. Phillips that it would be played "every evening for the future." But I trust that this threat is not destined to be fulfilled. The scenery and appointments were essentially Adelphian.

The famous composer Offenbach visited the Adelphi Theatre last week, and was so impressed with the performance of Miss Furtado as the heroine in his own opera bouffe of "La Belle Hélène" that he addressed a letter of congratulation and thanks to her, and promised, at some future date, to compose expressly for her. This is a great compliment to an English artist, more especially when we think that Germans and Frenchmen—and Offenbach is a German, educated in the French school—rather ignore the genius and talent indigenous to this British soil.

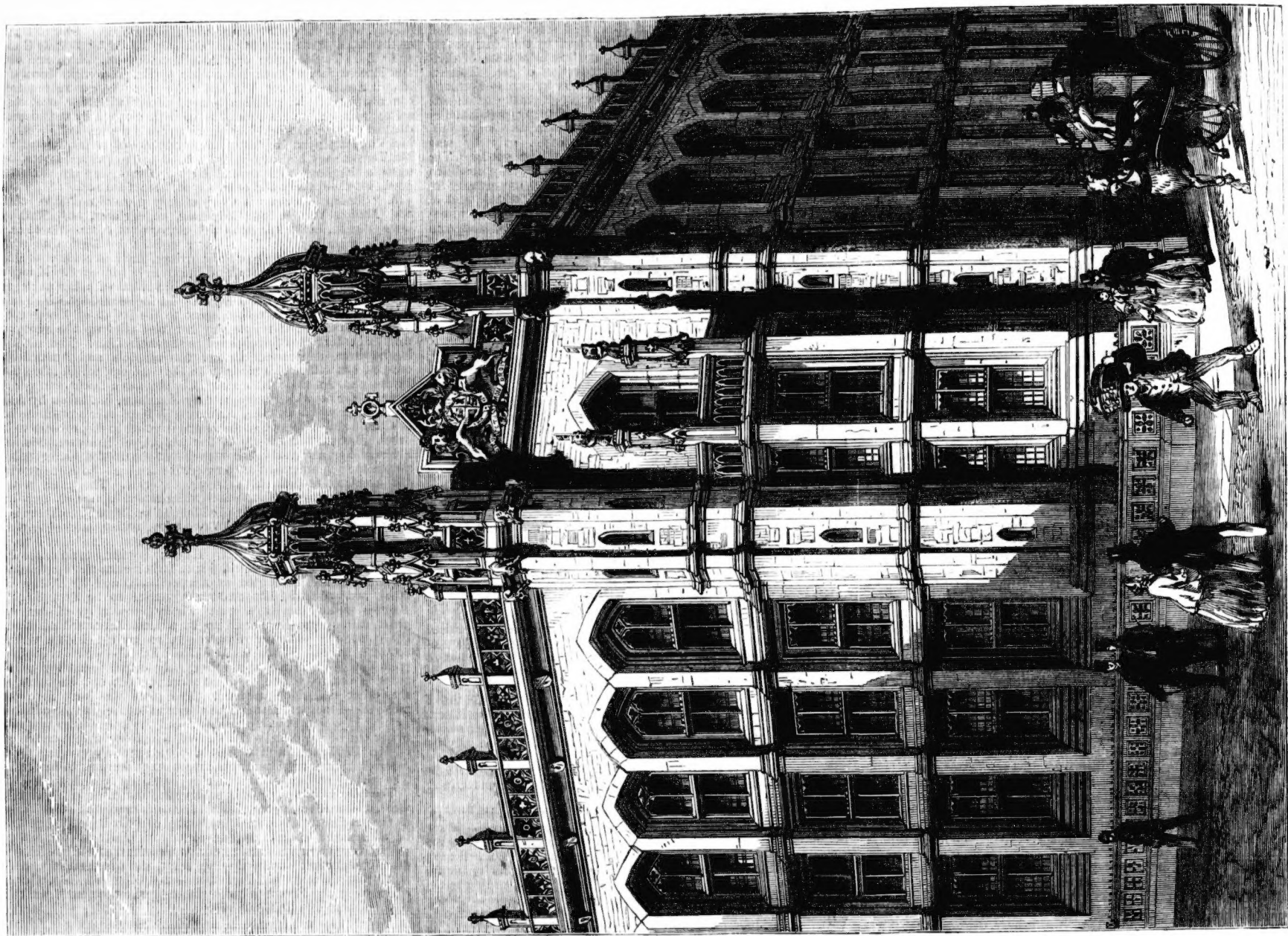
THE RESTORATIONS IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW-THE-LESS.

IN the early part of last year we gave some account, with illustrative engravings, of the restoration of the ancient church, once a part of the Priory of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield, founded by the celebrated Rahere, the friend of Hereward, "the last of the English." We are now able to record a similar event in connection with the Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, which forms part of that hospital, which, from having been an accessory to the Priory founded for the relief of the sick poor, and especially of "lying-in women," has become one of the most celebrated medical schools and charitable establishments in London. The old church—that is to say, the original church, superseded by that just now restored—was founded, with the Priory, in 1102, as a chapel to the hospital, and on the dissolution of the Priory of St. Bartholomew-the-Great was converted into a parish church. "This church," says Chamberlayne, "is an old fabrick of 99 ft. in length, 42 ft. in breadth, 34 ft. in height, and 74 ft. in the height of the steeple. It is a vicarage in the patronage of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens of London, and, as this building escaped the Great Fire in 1666, it is very ancient. The value of the living is about £120 per annum, arising from the Chamber of London, which pays the Vicar £13 6s. 8d., and from casualties and the allowance paid by the hospital."

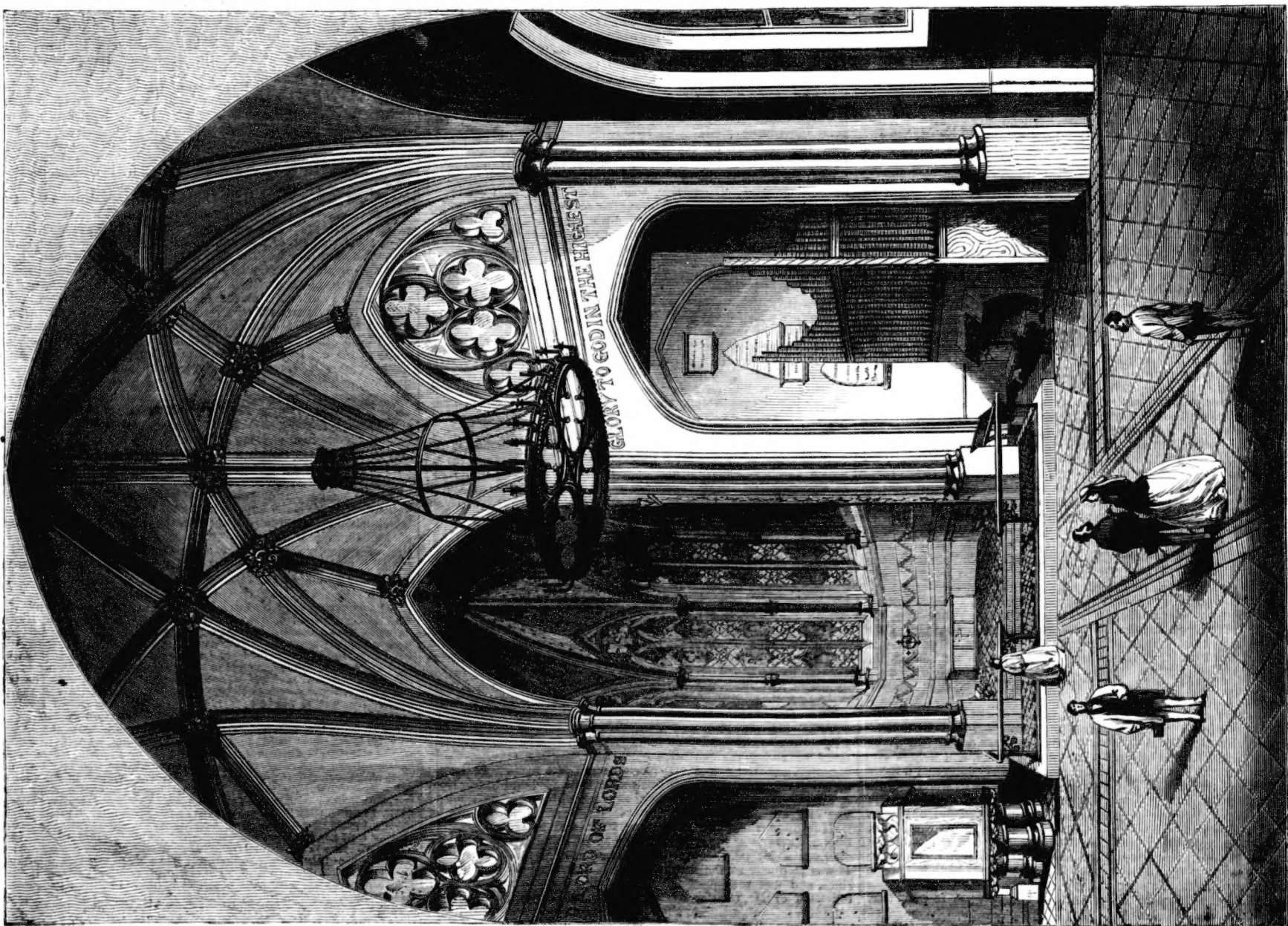
It may fairly be concluded that the value of the vicarage has increased since the time of Chamberlayne, and the "old fabrick" has gone the way of most of the ancient buildings thereabout. The interior was destroyed, and reconstructed anew by Mr. Dance, in 1789, and again rebuilt in 1823, on Dance's plan, by the father of Mr. Philip Hardwicke, R.A. The tower, however, remained, and many of the old monuments were preserved: those, for instance, of William Markeby (gentleman) and his wife, two small brasses on the floor on entering the body of the church; of Robert Balthorpe, sergeant-surgeon to Queen Elizabeth, a small kneeling figure; and of Lady Bodley, wife of Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The parish register of this church records the baptism of Inigo Jones, and the burial, in 1664, of James Heath, author of "Heath's Chronicle," who was interred in the church near the screen door. The present restoration, although it is complete, has been so effectively and judiciously carried out that it has preserved the ancient character of the edifice without spoiling the general effect by a too scrupulous regard to original details, a plan which has been effectually adopted in the restoration of the interior of the Church of Saint Bartholomew-the-Great, in our description of which, published in the number for Feb. 4, 1865, will be found a more complete account of the foundation of the ancient priory and its buildings.

A PASSENGER-TRAIN ON FIRE.—The 10.45 express from Bedford, which runs through to London, was stopped on Monday morning near Hitchin, owing to one of the second-class carriages taking fire. The passengers were unable to attract the attention of the guard by their united shoutings, whistlings, and bangings of doors for at least ten minutes, during which time a hole was burnt in the roof and the carriage filled with smoke. Mr. Allport, the general manager of the Midland Railway, was in the train, and by his prompt exertions the fire was soon extinguished and the passengers removed to another carriage. The fire was caused through a tarpaulin having blown over the oil-lamp and become ignited.

FALSE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—As the false-weights-and-measures question is at present causing considerable discussion, we wish to call particular attention to a circumstance vouched for by a reliable correspondent. This gentleman sent his servant to the shop of a baker who had been fined three days previously to purchase a loaf. It was weighed in the shop and pronounced "bumping weight;" but, on being put to the same test in the gentleman's house, it was 4 oz. deficient. This, too, three days after the fellow had been fined! We have taken every opportunity to protest against the inadequacy of the punishment, and here is a practical "demonstration." What is a £5 fine to a man who can "save" as much out of a week's cheating? We know that the fines inflicted are the utmost the law allows; but it is to be hoped the coming Session will see a more effective punishment meted out to those rascals who fatten and grow rich by robbing the poor, and then satisfy the law with a moiety of their ill-gotten gains.—*South London Press.*

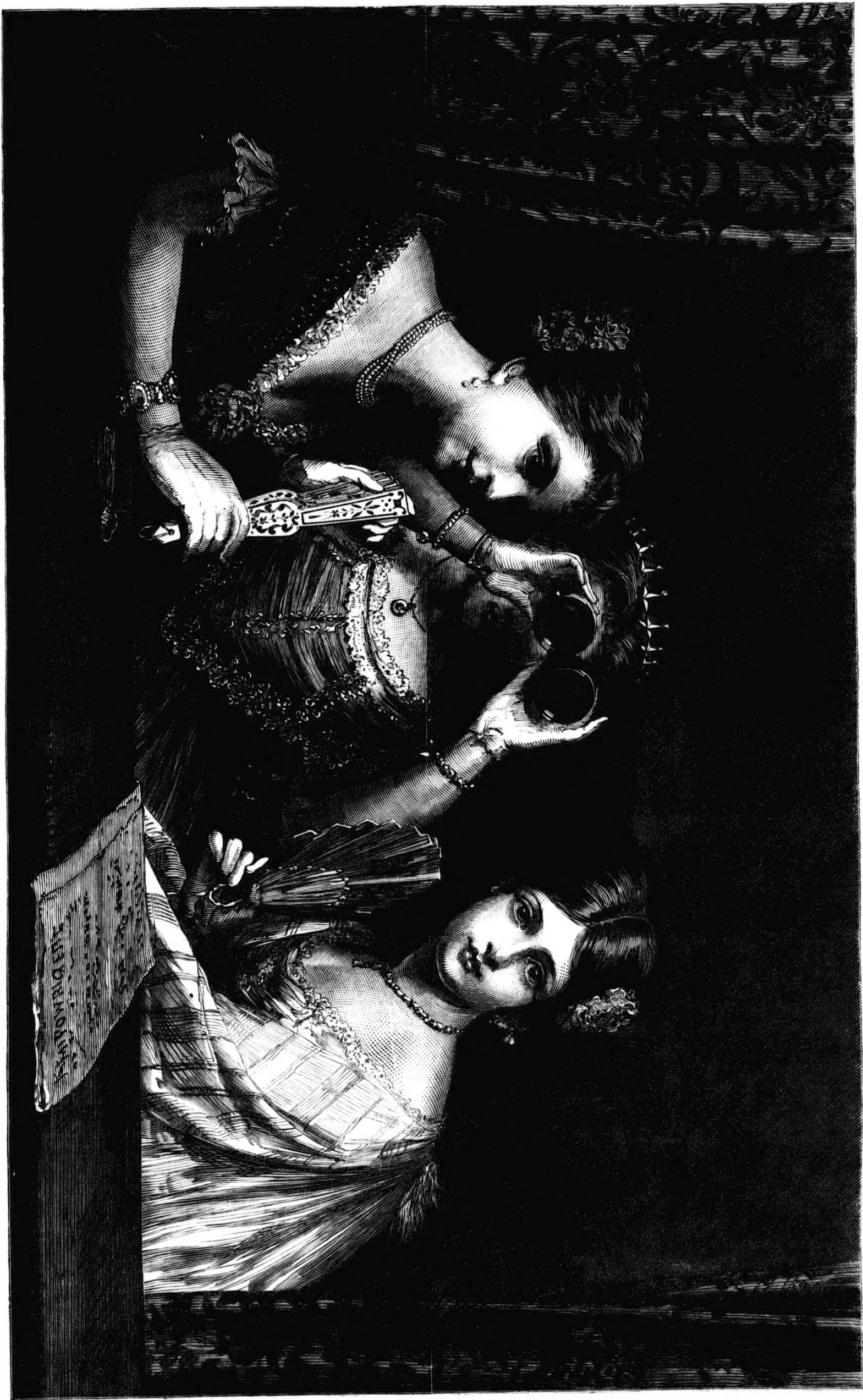


THE NEW RECORD OFFICES, FETTER LANE.



INTERIOR OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE LESS, SMITHFIELD, AS RESTORED.

"THE OPERA-BOX, L'ENTR'ACTE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY J. BAYLARD, IN WALLIS'S EXHIBITION.)



THE NEW RECORD OFFICE.

If there never was a nation with a history more striking or more important than that of England, assuredly there never was a nation which seemed to care so little for preserving the records and memoranda, the deeds and documents, which substantiate that history and keep its circumstances fresh in the memories of men.

Thirteen years ago a gentleman, who had undertaken some literary work of a peculiar character, had occasion to examine various registers preserved, or said to be preserved, in some of our old cathedral towns. These registers involved, in many cases, not only the histories of ancient families, but public and national matters concerning grants of lands and Royal charters. Almost without exception, he found these precious documents—many of which would make clear some doubtful points in the history of the country—stowed away in cocklofts, piled like waste paper in disused rooms, eaten by rats, rotting with mildew, obliterated by damp walls and the dropping of decayed plaster and lime, thrust, mere dirty, despised bundles, into open boxes or upon rickety shelves, exposed to influences as destructive as those which may be found in the worst marine-store shop in Wapping or Bethnal-green. No indexes or complete lists of wills or registers being kept and the charges for a search being high, the impatient inquirer was kept aloof from troubling the high and mighty gentlemen who pocket each some thousands a year as registrars; and the contempt with which these potentates treated the inquirer was only equalled by the indifference which they displayed to the records for the preservation of which they are so handsomely paid.

In a basket in the corner of a dilapidated room, along with some mortar and two or three bricks, this gentleman discovered the charter by which King William the Conqueror transferred the see of Dorchester to Lincoln—of course the seal, an almost priceless relic, was broken, and the deed itself much injured. This was an example of what was to be seen at many other places where documents of the first importance were kept in frowzy, damp, and almost ruinous rooms; in lofts, cellars, and the apartments over old gatehouses; where they could not be completely seen, but could be very distinctly smelt. It had been the periodical practice of some of the deputies to sell a portion of the older records for waste paper.

Anyone acquainted with some of the depositories of wills in London, although they may have rejoiced that such deeds were not exposed to a tithe of the danger and destruction which belonged to the condition of the same kind of documents, as well as to that of the national documents, in cathedral towns, could not regard the manner in which some of the most important national records were kept as at all adequate to the importance of preserving them without probability of undue injury; and we have reason to be glad that amongst the magnificent suites of buildings which will comprise the new Law Courts that destined for the Record Office is the first to be completed. Here it may be hoped that the deeds involving not only the history, but the actual division of the land, in England will be scrupulously guarded and systematically arranged; and that, although it may be true that hardly any great family in England at present possesses an irrefragable legal title to the lands it holds in possession (how can it do so when the original documents have been sold as waste paper or left to destruction?), we may at least preserve the ancient charters and the great number of other ancient instruments which have been better, though not perfectly, taken care of in the metropolis.

The depositories from which the records have been or will be removed to the new building in Fetter-lane are or were the chapel in the Tower; the Chapter House, Westminster Abbey; the Rolls Chapel, Chancery-lane; the office in Carlton-ride, St. James's Park; the State Paper Office; and the Prerogative Will Office. In the Tower office, all the rolls from the reign of King John to that of Richard III. were formerly preserved, in wainscoted presses, and the records included ancient charters and surveys of land and manors, originals of laws and statutes, treaties and leagues with foreign princes, historical records of wars, grants from kings to subjects, forms of submission of the Scottish Kings, the settlement of Ireland, privileges and immunities granted to corporations, and other important matters. At the Chapter House, Westminster, the celebrated Domesday Book and the records of the Court of the Star Chamber were preserved; besides the deed of resignation of the Scottish crown to Edward II., and two magnificent gold seals, one of them attached to the charter between Alfonso of Castile and Edward I., and the other to the treaty of peace between Henry VIII. and Francis I.

The Rolls Chapel, in Chancery-lane, was used as the depository of the records of the Court of Chancery from Richard III. to the present time; at Carlton-ride, originally the riding-house of Carlton House, were kept the original documents of the surrender of the monasteries and religious houses to Henry VIII.; and, in point of bulk, though not numerically, these deeds form about two thirds of the public records of the kingdom.

The papers accumulated at the offices of the Privy Council and the Secretaries of State, and, of course, most important documents, were formerly kept at the Gatehouse, Whitehall, until the State Paper Office was established. The papers were first put in order, and consigned to this building in St. James's Park, in the reign of George III., under the Grenville Administration. Most of our readers know, and many have had occasion to visit, the Prerogative Will Office in Doctors' Commons, and they are painfully aware how little accommodation is provided, not only for those who are engaged in examining a will or seeking powers of administration, but also to anyone who desires to search the registers, to obtain information on subjects of great historical and literary importance. It may be hoped that in the new building, which is worthy of the object for which it is designed, a more regular system will be adopted, and that, while reasonable facilities will be given for obtaining access to documents which are now national property, all the records consigned to the various departments will be conscientiously arranged and preserved.

"THE OPERA BOX."

We present our readers with an Engraving of a very charming picture by Mr. Hayllar, now on view at Mr. Wallis's admirable exhibition at the Suffolk-street Gallery. It is a pleasing sample of one of the best collections of pictures, British and foreign, that has been offered to the public for a long time. Mr. Hayllar is a colourist of great power; he possesses an eye for grace and beauty, and has therefore selected a subject which he is eminently qualified to treat.

The Opera Box!—object of feminine ambition, and too often cause of feminine envy—what a scene the mere mention of it conjures up! It is one of the envied luxuries of the rich, who may lounge there night after night, listening to the best music the world can offer. It is the longed-for haven of the ambitious youth who, having achieved the pit, sweeps the tiers with his lorgnette in the vague hope of catching a friendly nod and beck.

The three ladies in our picture are young and lovely. Their style of beauty varies sufficiently to bewilder while it delights. Supposing the Golden Apple were to be awarded, to which of these three divinities would Paris, in the stalls, formally assign it? It is hard to say. There is a witchery about the fair one in the centre which—and yet she on the left is oh! so—but, after all, not more than the darling on the right. It is, in fact, vain to attempt to say which is the fairest flower, and we must leave our readers to decide for themselves.

THE OXFORD UNION.—It may be some consolation to Mr. Bright, who, on the 8th ult., was voted, at the Oxford Union, by a majority of sixty-three to twenty-six, "to be a reproach to the country that gave him birth," to know that the question debated at the preceding meeting of that society, on the 1st ult., was, "That the habitual use of slang terms is unworthy an educated Englishman." On a division, it appeared that twenty-three members were in favour of the habitual use of slang terms, and that but eleven thought the habit of using them unworthy of an educated Englishman. An amendment to the original motion was put, but in such ungrammatical terms that it could not be pressed. The *Oxford Undergraduate's Journal* writes, in an apologetic tone, of the "awfully jolly" proclivities of the present race of Oxford men.

THE GREAT HERRING FISHERY.

THE great herring fishery—in other words, the Scottish herring fishery, which is the most extensive in the world, far exceeding that of either Holland or Norway—is now concluded for the season; but as the official statistics of the quantity of herrings cured, the number of boats and men employed in the fishery, and other information, cannot be obtained by the public till the next year's fishing is in progress, it may be advisable to give at once (which can be done from reliable sources—so far, at least, as the most important fishing and curing station is concerned) a brief résumé of the "take" of the present year, with such information as will throw light on the increasing fluctuations of the fishery. The largest fishery is carried on at the combined stations of Wick and Pulteneytown, on the Caithness coast, from which places as many as 1100 boats have been known to fish during one season. Herrings are to Wick what cotton is to Manchester, the capture and cure of the herring being the chief industry of the place. There are other fishing-stations of importance on the coast of Scotland—at Stornaway, Airdrishaig, Dunbar, &c.; but the Wick fishery is the largest, and it is at Wick, therefore, that the pulse of the herring fishery can best be felt.

As an index to the extent of the Scottish herring fishery, it may be stated that during some years as many as 120,000 crans of herrings have been cured at the Wick and Pulteney Town stations; thus affording, as a cran is a measure containing forty-five gallons of ungutted fish, no mean addition to our national food supplies. It is to be regretted, therefore, that only about 63,000 crans have been cured at Wick this year, being little more than half of what has been taken in some preceding seasons. But the Wick fishery has been considerably under an average for some years, and it is curious that scarcely two men agree as to the cause of the falling off. Opinions, indeed, differ very widely as to the cause of the fluctuations in the quantity of herrings captured, and that the fluctuations are considerable may be inferred from the fact that the catch at Wick this year is at least 12,000 crans below the short catch of last year. There are persons who believe that the fluctuations are caused by the increasing scarcity of fish and the derangement of the shoals consequent on the immense fleet of boats nightly concentrated on the fishing-ground during the season. Other persons, again, say that herrings are more abundant than ever, and that all that is wrong is to be found in the economy of the fishery; that the fishing is too intermittent; that it also begins and ends at erroneous times; that it is unnecessary to commence operations so soon, but that it is highly necessary for the fishing to be prolonged, &c. If the successive shoals of herring which find their spawning-ground in the bay of Wick be as extensive as popular report gives out, the quantity of fish nightly subtracted from them by a few hundred boats must, indeed, be insignificant. The herrings taken by man do not, however, represent a tithe of the mischief that is done to a shoal by its enemies; and, perhaps, the frightening of the fish by the noise of the fishery is the worst of all the evils that attend the fishery.

Our knowledge of the natural history of the herring is yet too limited to admit of our knowing exactly the size of a shoal or what percentage of the fish may be safely captured, so as to leave a sufficient breeding stock for future multiplication. Neither our naturalists nor our fishermen know exactly at what age a herring becomes reproductive; indeed, all the latter know is, that at certain periods of the year great bodies of herring congregate at certain places for the purpose of spawning, and that that is the only time they are accessible to the fishermen. It is thought by some naturalists that the herrings exist in distinct races; that there are winter shoals and summer shoals, each spawning at its own particular season, and coming together at a set period for that special purpose. One or two naturalists even go so far as to say that this fish exists in monthly races, and that the Wick shoals of July and August are totally distinct. In the light of this idea of the natural history of the herring the fluctuations in the capture of that fish are rather alarming, because it is certain that at one time a large proportion of the herrings captured by the Wick boats were captured in the month of July. In 1846 as many as 36,000 crans, about half the present year's total capture, were taken in July. This year the July fishery is a very poor one; it extended over sixteen nights, and the result was only 2680 crans. Indeed, the men seem to have a notion of the unproductiveness of that month, for the highest number of boats out on any one night in July was 550, the total number of boats assembled at Wick during this season being 984. As usual now at the herring fishery, the largest quantity of fish is taken during the month of August, during which month the highest average per boat is also found. In July the average per boat was scarcely a cran, while in August (even during the recent very bad season) it was from three to four crans. If, then, the herrings exist in races, the July race of the Caithness coast, as exhibited in the light of the Wick figures, must be held as being now extinct, or, at least, as being reduced below the point of reproduction.

There are anomalies connected with the herring fishery that are exceedingly singular. Thus, it is a merit of the catch that the herrings should be what are called "full fish"—i.e., that they should not have spawned in the season they are taken; indeed, unless they are unspawned fish, the officer of the fishery will not brand them; and "spent fish"—i.e., herrings that have spawned—bring a much smaller price in the market than full fish. It is obvious, therefore, that the herrings must be captured at the most interesting period of their life—namely, when they are assembled to fulfil the grandest instinct of their nature; and we thus have to tolerate and make a merit of in the herring what the law rigidly condemns as regards another well-known fish, the salmon. It is a penal offence to kill a gravid salmon; but Government annually stamps with its approval thousands upon thousands of barrels of gravid herrings. It was given out by the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conduct of the Lochfyne herring fishery that it did not matter at what period of its life a herring was killed. Would they say the same of salmon? and, if not, why not? It is curious that there should be a close time for herrings on one portion of the British coast, and not on all; it is curious, also, that it should be illegal to capture the common herring with a sear net in Lochfyne while it is quite *en règle* so to catch the pilchard-herring on the coast of Cornwall. As to the time for taking herrings, it would appear there is no choice; if we cannot obtain them when they assemble in large bodies to spawn, there is no other way of getting them; for it is thought by men who have investigated the natural history of the herring that, except at the spawning time, they live a single or individual life. If that be so, there is nothing for it but to capture them when they come in shore to search for a spawning-place, and the instinct of the herring in that respect must be set down as being quite as remarkable as that of the salmon, because year after year the same place is selected by what may be termed the same body of fish, just in the same way as the salmon bred in one river never return to any other stream.

Notwithstanding that an elaborate picture chart of the migration of the herring from the high latitudes was hung up in both of the French fishery exhibitions, it is now well known that the herring does not come to Britain from any other sea, but that it is, like most fish quite local to particular places. The plump, white herring of Lochfyne is quite as different from the Firth of Forth herring as the small, oily May herring taken at Thurso is from the Yarmouth bloater. The herring is a most capricious animal, and although shoals are known to have existed in some localities from time immemorial, other places are known to have been deserted by the fish. There is the well-known example of the Cromarty fishery. About the year 1707-8 an immense shoal of herrings was found in the Bay of Cromarty, and the "take" on that occasion was enormous—so enormous that the fish could not be cured for want of salt, the consequence being that countless numbers of the fish had to be used as manure. Then, all of a sudden, the fish deserted the bay, and for about sixty years, as on the coasts of Sweden, not a herring was taken in the Firth of Cromarty. In the year 1780 the herrings came back in such immense numbers that the water was literally alive with them, and since that period a fishery has been carried on with more or less success. In some years the take has been much larger than in others, as is, indeed, the case at all the principal seats of the herring fishery, from Wick

to Anstruther. There can be no doubt but that there are many places in the North Sea where herrings will be found upon being tried for, just in the same way as there are countless oyster-beds lying in the water ready to be discovered. It is too much the custom for fishermen to repair to particular fishing-stations—indeed, from the peculiarity of our herring commerce, they can only repair to places where a curing establishment has been erected; or, if they deal in fresh fish, they must fish from a port in direct communication with a railway.

The herrings caught at Wick are, as a general rule, all cured; indeed, the place is so far from any of the great seats of population that it would be practically impossible to pursue any other plan. Boats fishing from Dunbar on the Firth of Forth can have their fish in Manchester in a few hours, where there is a demand for all that can be sent; but the greater portion of the fish taken by the boats which assemble at Wick are barreled and sent to the towns of Prussia and Germany. There is a great commerce in herrings at Stettin, to which place large quantities of the Moray Firth fish are consigned. A herring at some places in Germany is a rare luxury, and costs about 4d.; they are steeped in milk in order to take away a portion of the salt, and are then eaten raw, dressed with vinegar, onions, cucumber, &c. The Wick herrings are remade up at Stettin into family kits, each kit holding eighteen fish, and being sold at the price of a dollar. The cure as practised at Wick forms one of the most picturesque industrial sights of this country. The sailing of the boats from the harbour every evening at about sunset is striking, and to see them come in again a little after sunrise, filled to the gunwales with beautiful fish, is still more striking. Herrings are captured by means of what is called a drift net—or, rather, a great series of nets all tied to each other—let down like a wall into the sea and fastened to the boat. The capture of the fish is quite a matter of chance, the men have no means of knowing beforehand whether they will hit upon the shoal or not. It happens, therefore, that one boat may be filled with herrings, while boats on each side of it may not have one cran of fish. The moment the boat arrives at the quay, the cure begins, and on such days as the whole fleet has been at sea and the take has been at all general the bustle and animation on the quays and at the curing troughs is wonderful. The fish, being brought ashore, are thrown into large shallow vats and sprinkled with salt; then they are seized upon by the gutters, who are women, and eviscerated with great precision and rapidity, a barrel containing 700 fish being filled in a few minutes by a party of three active women. It is necessary, in order to obtain the brand, which is affixed by a Government officer, that the gutting and packing of the fish should be accomplished with great rapidity, and the amount of this kind of work achieved on the occasion of a heavy fishing is wonderful, there being hundreds of women employed at the vats from sunrise till, as it sometimes happens, far into the evening, within which time a very large take of herrings can be cured, and it usually happens once or twice in every season that the boats have such a take as decides the fortune of the season's fishing. During the fishing which has just closed the Wick and Pulteneytown boats brought ashore on one day (Aug. 11) 9000 crans of herrings, and on each of two occasions 7680 crans; but on two occasions of the preceding season as many as 23,000 crans were landed, and the boats have been known to bring home still larger quantities, 20,000 crans having been more than once added to the score by one night's fishing of the boats hailing from Wick.

Turning, now, for instruction and guidance to the present year's figures—and these are elaborately given by the excellent local journals of Wick—the total catch of the Wick station is set down at a little over 63,000 crans for the season, being 13,000 crans short of the take of last year, which, however, was greatly under an average. During the season the highest number of boats fishing from Wick was 980, and that only on two occasions; but on thirteen of the fishing nights there were over 900 boats out at sea, as against eighteen occasions, when a similar number went out to sea last year. The greatest catch in 1865 occurred on Aug. 24, when the boats made an average of twelve crans each, one-third of the herrings taken being spent fish. The largest take of the present season gave an average of only ten crans per boat, and also occurred in August, but thirteen days earlier than the biggest take of the preceding year. The present year's fishery began on the 15th of June and ended on Sept. 18, embracing fifty-five fishing days, on three of which, however, the boats did not go out, and also twenty occasions on which the boats out at the fishing did not exceed 100. The average number of boats would count as 415 at sea every night, and the average number of crans got by each boat would be sixty-four for the season. Of course, as has been the case in former seasons, the catch was exceedingly partial, some boats having no fish night after night, others having a score or two of crans. The average number of crans taken by each boat at the Wick fishery has fluctuated greatly during late years. In 1838, for instance, the average of the 550 boats then fishing was 135 crans. In 1849 the average was still higher, 800 boats having each 140 crans. For the nineteen years from 1837 to 1855 the average was only three times below 100 crans, the figures of these three deficient years being respectively 91, 96, and 75. The *John o'Groat Journal* (of Wick) says that, "contrary to expectation, the total catch of this year shows an increase over the previous year of 18,503 barrels; but the total catch of 1865 was a short one, being less than that of the year immediately preceding by 36,914 barrels, and less than the average of the five previous years by 72,900 barrels. The catch of 1865, being so far under the average of the five years, 1860-64, inclusive, the total catch this year is still under the same average by 54,403 barrels, and, consequently, may be reckoned a very short fishing, though slightly better than that of last year."

There seems to be now established as regards the Wick fishery a gradual falling off. It stands to reason that, if the herrings be as numerous as they are thought to be, the same number of boats should annually take the same quantity of fish, seeing that the net power has been largely increased, and that the nets have been greatly improved and made more deadly. A deranged system of fishing has been put forth this year as the cause of the shortcoming at Wick, the hired men having, it is said, deserted their service and gone home to their Highland residences in a kind of panic; but this reason cannot be the true one, for the *Northern Ensign's* excellent table of details shows us that so late as the 6th of September 800 boats were at sea, while last year the fishing was virtually over on the 29th of August, when 977 boats left Wick for the fishing-ground, but did not make an average; and yet last year the total take of Wick exceeded the take of this year by 13,000 crans. There is no doubt that the commerce of the herring fishery is faulty; indeed, the fishery has before now been compared to a gigantic lottery, in which there are very few prizes. No sooner is one fishing over than the curers and the men begin to make their engagements for the next one; and these are quite in the nature of time bargains. A few days ago some of the Macduff boats were engaged to fish next year at a guinea per cran, £25 of bounty money paid down at once, and perquisites of various kinds to the value of another £5. A boatman usually engages to fish to a curer to the extent of 200 crans at such rates has been specified; but sometimes the boats do not capture half the quantity. There are comparatively few boats that reach 200 crans, while one or two "lucky" ones will largely overtop that number. The fish-curer, besides paying for the green fish, has to provide salt for the cure, gutters to eviscerate and pack the fish, coopers to prepare the barrels, "cutch" to dye the nets, ground for the nets to be dried upon, &c. Besides such expenditure, he has frequently to advance more money to the boatowner than is implied in the bargain; in fact, the whole system is bad. The banks advance money to the merchants, the merchants to the curers, the curers to the boatowners, the boatowners to their men, and so on, in one perpetual round, season after season, till there comes a collapse. It used to be quite easy for three or four young fellows to obtain a boat and go out herring fishing. Some curers will still set up men in the business with a new boat, drift of nets, sails, &c., and away they go to sea some £150 in debt, and, of course, bound to fish for their creditor, and on terms of his making. This facility of credit is a curse to all concerned. "More than two thirds of the boats that fish at Wick," says a commentator on the system, "are more or less hopelessly sunk in debt to the curers."

Accurate statistics have been kept for years of the quantity of herrings cured in Scotland, there being a Board of Commissioners which employs a staff of officers charged with that duty; but there is no record kept of the quantity of herrings that is sold direct from the sea as fresh fish; neither is there any record kept of the herrings caught on the English coasts or the quantity cured at Yarmouth. The quantities of fresh herrings now brought to market by railway are enormous, and persons cry out in their gladness, "The sea is as good to us as ever; we are getting more fish than we ever got before; the fisheries are inexhaustible." There is truth in this, but not all the truth. To keep up the supplies, in accordance with modern demand, the number of boats and fishing-vessels is yearly increasing. Some boats at Wick will, night after night, put a mile of netting down into the water, and with this deadly stretch of machinery they will capture one third of the fish only that they used in former years to take with but one third of the netting.—*Times*.

DRAINAGE OF TOTTENHAM AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A NUMEROUS and influential meeting of representatives of several parishes in the neighbourhood of Tottenham was held on Monday, at the lecture-hall, for the purpose of conferring as to the best mode of draining that part of the suburbs of London. The members of the Tottenham local board of health, in their circular, state, "The growing requirements of the various parishes, their relative position, the difficulty, if not impossibility, of improving the drainage of one parish without a corresponding detriment to others, the desirability of providing a suitable outlet for the drainage of numerous populous districts, having one common fall or inclination, with other considerations of equal importance, have satisfied this board that further isolated attempts at local drainage improvement, without reference to the necessities or requirements of surrounding districts, must foster further litigation, augment existing difficulties, and lead to the most unsatisfactory results." The parishes invited to send representatives were Hornsey, Friern Barnet, Chipping Barnet, Finchley, Edmonton, Enfield, Hackney, and East Barnet. The following public bodies were also invited:—East London Waterworks Company, the visiting committee of Colney Hatch Asylum, the New River Company, and the trustees of the River Lee Navigation; the latter two only did not send representatives. W. Hall, Esq., surgeon, chairman of the Tottenham local board of health, presided over the conference.

The chief clerk of the board read the circular convening the meeting, and also a letter from the trustees of the River Lee Navigation, in which they expressed their entire approval of the conference, and their regret that they were unable to send a representative, as they had no funds they could devote to the purpose.

After some conversation, Mr. Richardson suggested that someone connected with the Colney Hatch Asylum should give the meeting the benefit of the experience which the visiting committee of that institution had derived from the experiments which had recently been made with sewage there, more especially the results of the application of Dr. Bird's process.

A long conversation ensued, and, so far as it was possible to gather the feeling of the meeting, the opinion seemed to be that the experiments had not been sufficient to enable the meeting to come to any decision upon them.

A variety of other suggestions were made, and there was a good deal of discussion: but the opinion of the meeting was clearly that they were not at present sufficiently informed to decide on any plan of drainage.

Mr. Michael (from Hornsey) moved—"That a committee from the following parishes and public bodies (those given above) be appointed to consider the desirability of forming one drainage district, with power to employ an engineer to assist in the inquiry and report thereon to a future meeting."

Colonel Jeakes (from Hornsey) seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. M. Michael then moved—"That such committee be formed of two gentlemen from each parish or public body, and that the chairman of the present meeting be appointed to summon the committee as occasion may require."

Mr. Laird seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The usual compliment to the chairman closed the proceedings, which lasted nearly two hours.

BANKRUPT RAILWAYS.—Lord Redesdale, writing on the affairs of companies which have practically become bankrupt, says:—"I object to these companies being allowed to bring in bills providing new law for themselves, differing probably in each case, to be referred, perhaps, to different committees, who may not agree in their conclusions, and award different measures of justice. I object to creditors being subjected to the expense of resisting arrangements formed by the bankrupts for their own advantage; and I hold that all these settlements should be effected under one general law, applied impartially to all such concerns, and that it is the duty of Government to introduce a bill for that purpose as soon as Parliament meets."

STATUTE FAIRS.—Lord Lytton presided at the annual meeting of the Worcestershire Servants' Registration Society, held at Worcester on Saturday last. The report prepared by his Lordship stated that the society was founded, some years since, with the object of preventing the evils attendant upon the holding of statute fairs, or "mops," and to substitute a more satisfactory mode of hiring agricultural servants by means of local registration offices. The object of the society was twofold—viz., first, destructive, to prevent the evils attendant upon hirings at statute fairs; and, second, constructive, to supply a better mode of hiring. The report went on to show how far these objects had been carried out. The annual returns showed a gradual increase of hirings at these registration offices, and "mops" were rather on the decline for hiring, although kept up more for the sake of the holiday and annual license than for the business of hiring. His Lordship said he had directed inquiries to be made of the police as to moral effects of these "mops," and their replies were more or less condemnatory of the system. The committee was anxious to encourage other means for effecting the object of an annual holiday, and among other means adopted for this purpose has been the renewal of the celebration of "harvest homes," once so general in England. The accounts showed a balance in hand of £13; and, on the motion of the Rev. J. Pearson, seconded by Mr. H. F. Vernon, M.P., the report was adopted and ordered to be printed. Some discussion ensued, and several of the police reports were read, showing the extent of vice and immorality attendant upon these statute fairs. As a substitute for an annual holiday, "harvest homes" had been held in two parishes in the county—Suckley and Rushock—at which entertainments of a social and moral character had been provided at a small cost. An executive committee was appointed for the year, and thanks were voted to the chairman and officers for the past year.

THE LONDON POOR RATES.—On Tuesday evening, at the usual weekly meeting of the guardians of the Strand Union, the equalisation of the poor rates in the metropolis was held under consideration, on a notice of motion by Mr. Bonham—Mr. Wilkinson, the chairman of the board, presiding. Mr. Bonham said there could be little doubt that in the next Session of Parliament an attempt would be made to alter the existing poor law; and, as one of the questions involved would be the rating of the various metropolitan parishes to the maintenance of the poor, he had considered it his duty to test the opinion of the guardians as a body with respect to the equalisation of the metropolitan poor rates. The union of parishes in the Strand stood in the position of belonging neither to the rich parishes nor the poor parishes; but even here it had been found a hard task to deal with the poor, with the present rating, in a manner adequate to the public requirements; and this rating had been found, on the other hand, very burdensome. Some of the London parishes had very light rates and very few poor, while others had very many poor and a very heavy poor rate, which was raised upon an almost pauperised population, so that the poor, in fact, had to keep the poor. Such parishes as St. George's, Southwark; Bethnal-green, and Greenwich had a desperate fight to pay their way, and there were twenty-five of these parishes or unions which would pay less under an equalisation system, and fourteen which would pay increased rates, and the Strand was one of the former. He moved that the board should enter upon its minute an approval of an equalisation of the metropolitan poor rates. Mr. George seconded the motion. Mr. Hedgcock supported the resolution, and mentioned that in St. Ann's parish, in this union, the poor were increasing very fast—indeed, so fast that in many of the streets there was not a house without some outdoor paupers in it. Mr. Winter also spoke in favour of the motion, and the chairman and Mr. Mason urged that it should stand over, in order that the vestries of the union might have an opportunity of giving an opinion upon the subject. Mr. Cornish warmly supported the resolution, and said that, as parishes had been dragged into unions to keep the poor of other parishes, he could not see why the principle should not be extended, and Paddington and St. George's, Hanover-square, compelled to pay their fair share to the support of the metropolitan poor. In some other remarks which were made by Mr. George and other guardians the great increase of the rates and the poor was mentioned, and the motion was carried unanimously. A remarkable instance of the manner in which the poor rates are imposed upon was brought before the guardians at this sitting. A man named Cain, a surgical-instrument maker, who had three children being kept by the guardians at Edmonton, had made application to have these children sent to the Roman Catholic schools, there to be kept at the charge of the poor rate. One of the guardians said the man had forgotten his children until urged by a guardian of his own faith to have them sent to the Roman Catholic schools; and the man was summoned to attend. He now attended, and by his own admissions it was proved that he was the owner of some house property bringing in £45 a year, which he had mortgaged for £200; that he was in expectation of having £700 more, and that he had lately been in receipt of 26s. a week as a mechanic. An order was made that his children should be given up to him altogether, and one of the guardians offered to find him work—an offer which he evidently little cared to accept.

Literature.

Gemma. A Novel. By T. ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE, Author of "La Beata," "Lindisfarne Chase," &c. 3 vols. London: Chapman and Hall.

The great family of Orsini is in no danger of quickly dying out of Italian literature, nor out of fiction connected with Italian history or life. In "Gemma," who is certainly not the principal character in the novel, a modern Orsini takes first place, and shows that the pride and daring for which the family is celebrated has in no way abated, but is well and strongly represented by a young and beautiful girl. But pride and daring in the modern feminine instance should properly be called wickedness of the worst description; and it is but little to say in favour of the young Marchesina Dianora Orsini that her progenitors "have done so before her." A part of this young lady's character will be understood when it is said that the story turns upon her systematic slow poisoning of Gemma Venturi, her schoolfellow if not friend, in consequence of the unsmooth course of a true love with which Gemma has nothing whatever to do. Mr. Trollope's story will not suffer from this announcement. Never was there a story so utterly straightforward. From first to last the footsteps of every character are traced—every motive, every nerve, laid bare to the reader. Good, bad, or indifferent, there is no concealment; and every change of the story might be guessed far more readily than most of those teasing conundrums, or any of those double acrostics, which beguile the readers of the penny family journals. It is greatly to the credit of Mr. Trollope's powers as a novel-writer that he pursues this uncommon plan with confidence and safety. His pages are, above all, readable; and, though the double love-story is deep with interest, and the panorama is unrolled and explained steadily, we are never tired of lingering over some quaint memory of Italian history; some contrast between old and new; some skilful interpretation of the difference of Italian and English characteristics; or some life-like picture of the ancient city of Siena, with the splendid mountains on the one side and the wild-waste Maremma skirting the Mediterranean on the other. The difference of Italian and English manners cannot fail to touch the curious, and that must be touching a great many. But when we come to the principal incident—to the slow-poisoning—we are bound to observe that Italian manners of a few years since differ in nowise from English manners of the present day. Being uncertain at this moment of who happen to have been hanged, and of who happen to have escaped, and not caring for an action for libel with any of the fortunate survivors, we will not attempt a list of "modern instances," but merely call attention to the fact, by way of toning down national pride, and making every allowance for the guilty foible of Mr. Trollope's heroine, Dianora Orsini.

By way of bearing out the line, "That great events from little causes spring," an incident of the most ludicrous kind takes place with the rising of the curtain, and the serious events follow from it as surely as arithmetical progression. Dianora Orsini, the patrician, and Gemma Venturi, daughter of a plebeian Sienese bookseller, are just finishing their education at the same convent, when Dianora, full of haughty fun, puts a mass of pitch on the chair of the dancing-mistress—who, by-the-way, is too fat to show the steps to her pupils otherwise than in a chair. Dianora is punished by confinement to her cell. Now, Dianora has been engaged from cradle to the head of another noble but impoverished house, the Count Gino Donati; she having, as the story opens, learnt to love him to adoration, whilst he takes the marriage as a certainty, and is accordingly listless. It so happens that as Dianora is in the cell, and deprived of her "Sunday out," Gino Donati meets Gemma, and love at first sight is the consequence. Donati's noble family agree to the change of alliance, and Dianora pretends to be too proud and careless to be affected in the least. But, in reality, the Orsini pride, as well as love, is touched to the quick, and hence the slow-poisoning scheme hit upon by the haughty girl to punish her poor friend. With the aid of a physician, domiciled with the Venturis, the antimony is administered with the best or worst effects; the physician, madly in love with Dianora, claiming her hand as his reward. The sequel belongs to the book. This part of the story, which is the longest and chief source of interest, is described at full length, and is worked out with many incidents. It is natural, graphic, and powerful; and, as may be expected, exceedingly painful. The contrast between the two girls is excellent; and no two human beings, actuated by the same feelings, could be less alike than the mild, easy, amiable Count Donati and the terrible physician, Doctor Carlo Presenti. Gemma's father is a pleasant character, lightly sketched in—a bookseller without a thought for black letter or tall copies, but a keen numismatist, whose only stipulation for a son-in-law is that he shall make a catalogue of his cabinet of coins. Dianora's uncle is slighter still—the soul of pride, and satisfied if pride be guarded, even at the risk of death or loss of fortune. The strength and delicacy of Mr. Trollope in these volumes are worthy of his reputation, which has always been fostered in well-reading circles. Despite the powerful and melancholy side of the story, the author will be held quite guiltless of any ministering to bad passions, and to have done all that was possible to make the innocent and the gentle be loved.

Varia: Readings from Rare Books. By J. HAIN FRISWELL, Author of "The Gentle Life," &c. ("Gentle Life" Series.) London: Sampson Low and Co.

In a second edition of "Varia" Mr. Friswell might fairly take away much of the modesty contained in his preface to the first. He does no more than he sets out to do, but that he does well, and the work well done is well worth having. "Readings from Rare Books" does not mean a mere collection of extracts from obscure writers—just as, when the writers of the obscure period were fresh, a very obscure man might have picked up a penny by seducing his friends to a "Penny Reading" of the period—but it means an account of some fine old books which are rare to the general public, with critical commentary, and just so much "life and times" of the authors as to make the literature intelligible. In the face of such modern writers as Wilkie Collins and Miss Braddon, who have taken the world by storm and just a few of the non-writerly cative, Thomas Aquinas seems a dangerous subject; but Mr. Friswell gives an account of him, his work, and his book, which must have charms for those who have neither time nor opportunity to dip into folios or dive head-over-heels into quartos. To summarise a summary would be absurd. But one point only concerning Thomas Aquinas will arrest the youthful attention, when religions are changing hands like partners in a quadrille, and, like a dance conducted by not the best dancers, everybody finds himself sooner or later in the wrong place; and, in these days of ritualistic observance, if somebody does not find himself in proscribed costume for the said dance, it must be strange indeed. The one strange thing, then, about this canonised saint of the Roman Catholics, who lived before the Reformation began, is (according to the Rev. F. D. Maurice) that "the reasoners against almost any tenet of the Roman Catholic Church can be furnished on a short notice with any kind of weapons out of the armoury of the great Doctor." Thomas à Kempis is, or ought to be, well known to all readers, since the "Imitation" is supposed to have gone through more editions than any other book known. Some inquiries, however, as to the real authorship of the book will be new and useful to those who are not prepared to take everything for granted; but yet they had better be careful of adopting the careless English plan of believing the last thing told them. Paracelsus—another of the quaint geniuses talked of here—is familiar enough through Robert Browning's idolising poem; but there is nothing beyond surface-gleaning in Mr. Friswell's few pages. The story of Quevedo is really interesting and fresh; likewise Nostradamus and Sir Walter's famed Michael Scot the Wizard. "Howell the Traveller" is more interesting than rare; "Sir Thomas Browne" a slight glance at a great subject; "Lodowick Muggleton" not worth the touching; and "George Pealmanazar" a subject

almost worn threadbare. The "Highwaymen" and "Spirit World" seem merely flung in to make up a volume, since they can have no connection with a "Gentle Life Series"—whatever a "Gentle Life Series" may mean.

Mr. Friswell seems to forget that the word "hath" hath long given way to the word *has*, and the exclamation "Marry!" to "Halloa!" or "By Jove!"

Flower de Luce. By HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW. London: George Routledge and Sons.

In this little volume, or rather pamphlet, Mr. Longfellow has sent us some verses which have more than his usual pleasantness and more than the usual amount of the simple music which we expect from him. The Dante sonnets at the end are probably intended to prepare our minds for the new translation of the "Divina Commedia" which Mr. Longfellow is said to have been engaged in preparing. They are tolerably good. But, after all, Mr. Longfellow has lately been a very monotonous writer. His trick of rhythm is always the same, and the rhyme is far too often the rudder of the verse. It is as if a highly poetic mind had been set down to fill in *bouts rimés*; and the thing is always as well done as it can be; but even the best of the poems have an "occasional" ring—as if the poet kept a commonplace book, and, when an idea struck him, put it down for use, and gradually surrounded it with images and rhymes. Thus, the majority of the poems read like charmingly-versed Remarks. One or two of them are versified anecdotes; but in neither of them do we find anything like an imaginative whole. The best is the very short one which gives the name to the volume; the next best are "Killed at the Ford" (which we have all read in the newspapers) and the sonnet entitled

GIOTTO'S TOWER.

How many lives, made beautiful and sweet,
By self-devotion and by self-restraint,
Whose pleasure is to run without complaint
On unknown errands of the Paraclete,
Wanting the reverence of unshodden feet,
Fall of the nimbus which the artists paint
Around the shining forehead of the saint,
And are in their completeness incomplete!
In the old Tuscan town stands Giotto's tower,
The lily of Florence blossoming in stone—
A vision, a delight, and a desire—
The builder's perfect and centennial flower,
That in the night of ages bloomed alone,
But wanting still the glory of the spire.

It is even possible that this may be the best thing in the pamphlet; but the general level is scarcely high enough to permit much discrimination between the little knolls which diversify the ground.

The Merry Bridal o' Firthmains, and other Poems and Songs. By JAMES SMITH. Second Edition. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

This is a book which may be dipped into with more pleasure than many volumes of verse of ten times its pretensions. Mr. Smith appears to be a compositor, and to belong to that class, so large in Scotland, of men who honourably and laudably pursue a handicraft or a profession—and a printer is by the tradition of his art a gentleman—and yet keep on singing like linnets, each on his particular bush or spray, and staying chiefly within the bounds of the domestic and patriotic ideas. Mr. Smith is just such a linnet; and he has some humour of his own, too. But the moment he forsakes what the innkeeper in "Adam Bede" called "the dileck," he becomes ineffective as a poet. Here is an effective verse or two from

THE LAMENT O' ST. GILES'S BELLS.

Cling, clang, cling, clang, Greet, an' hing yer head: Clinkum, clankum, cling, clang, The toun's maist deid!	Cling, clang, cling, clang, Wow the canty times, When clinkum, clankum, cling, clang, We rung the merry chimes;
Shame fa' the Presbyters, An' shame fa' the Chaurer, An' shame fa' the siller-grips That stay'd our blythesome clamour.	An' cheered the hearts o' rich an' poor, Frae king to raggit caddie, Wi' "Denty David's curly power," "Sweet Hame," an' "Tooraladdy!"

This is only a fragment from a long poem, but it is not bad; neither is

JEMMY SLANNIGAN'S APPEAL TO THE FINNIAN BOYS.

Oh! in God's name, ye boys front! to the right about whale! quick march for yer lives, an' go home, boys!
Dispel the dark Finnian fog av rank death—let the sun av pace shine o'er the nayshin.
Sure the best men av Ireland stand cowardly aloof, an' there's no warm wishee from Rome, boys;
For yer dhruvin' express, in the devil's own train, wid the grim gallows-tree for the nayshin.
Queen av Erin! come forth from yer fair Scottish glens—sure we know ye won't hear us in vain, ma'am;
For the birds softly sing that yer desolate days are, thank God, very near at an end.
Oh it's happy we'll be, when the dark mantle falls, jist to see yer swate face once again, ma'am;
For it's bowdly ye'll prove, wid the spirit av old, a thrue Irishman's motherly frind.

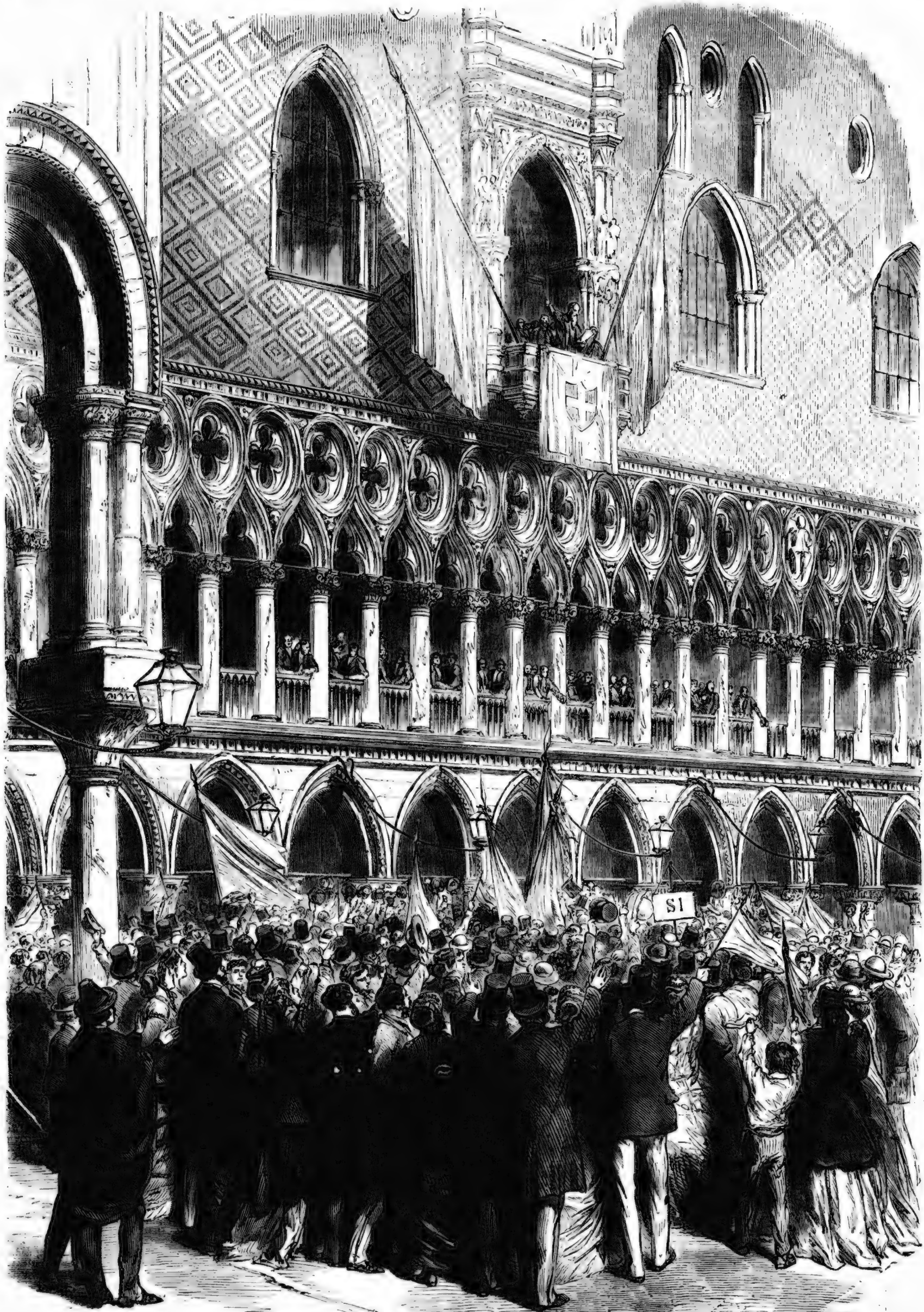
September the 29, '65.
J. S.
his + mark.
We are glad to have made the acquaintance of Mr. Smith, and wish him all happiness and success.

Croquemitaine, and the Times of Charlemagne. Illustrated by Gustave Doré. Freely Translated by TOM HOOD. London and New York: Cassell, Pether, and Galpin.

Of this splendid volume as a drawing-room table book there can only be one opinion: it is very handsome, very cheap, and in all ways adapted for the purpose. But, as a book for the reading of the young, or for general reading, this *édition de luxe* is too large. And the beautiful legend of M. L'Épée deserves to be read for its own sake, apart from the wonderful drawings of the inexhaustible Doré. Luckily, Mr. Hood's well-executed translation is available for reprint in any other shape, and the illustrations could remain a portfolio by themselves. What a magnificent portfolio, by-the-way, might be made up out of a selection from the most characteristic designs of Doré!

Criticism has lately been so busy with this artist that it is difficult to say anything about him that has not been said before. But we do not remember to have seen noticed his astonishing power of producing "effects" with a few bare lines of the pencil. A striking instance of this occurs in "Croquemitaine" at page 225—"Exeunt the Fear Family." His great characteristic is unquestionably a grotesque grim humour, which shows as if it had passed through long supernatural dreams and vividly remembered them. Whatever is desolate, lurid, or gigantesque, comes easy to him; but he seldom wholly quits the wonderlands of wild humour in which he breathes so freely. He is particularly successful in suggesting supernatural light. He is not often tender, but he is sometimes; and "The Death of Mitaine" in the present volume may serve for an example. One of his very strongest points is his instinct of weight and poise. He has a keen feeling of the laws of gravity, and, though wild in drawing, he "poses" his figures with a gloomy sort of solidity, which tells much upon the imagination. In "Croquemitaine" he is quite in his element, and we warmly recommend the book.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH AMERICA.—By a Parliamentary paper recently issued, we learn that the passage from Liverpool to New York by the Cunard mail-steamers occupies twelve days eleven hours, at an average speed of 10.58 knots per hour. The homeward passage is usually performed in eleven days seven hours, at an average speed of 11.48 knots. In the year 1861 the Persia made seven voyages out and eight home at an average speed respectively of 12.15 and 12.91 knots per hour, thus performing the journey in little over ten days each way. The Cunard mail-ships between Liverpool and Boston attain a less rate of speed, averaging thirteen days, with a speed of 9.77 knots per hour on the outward, and eleven days, at the rate of 10.8 knots on the homeward, passages.



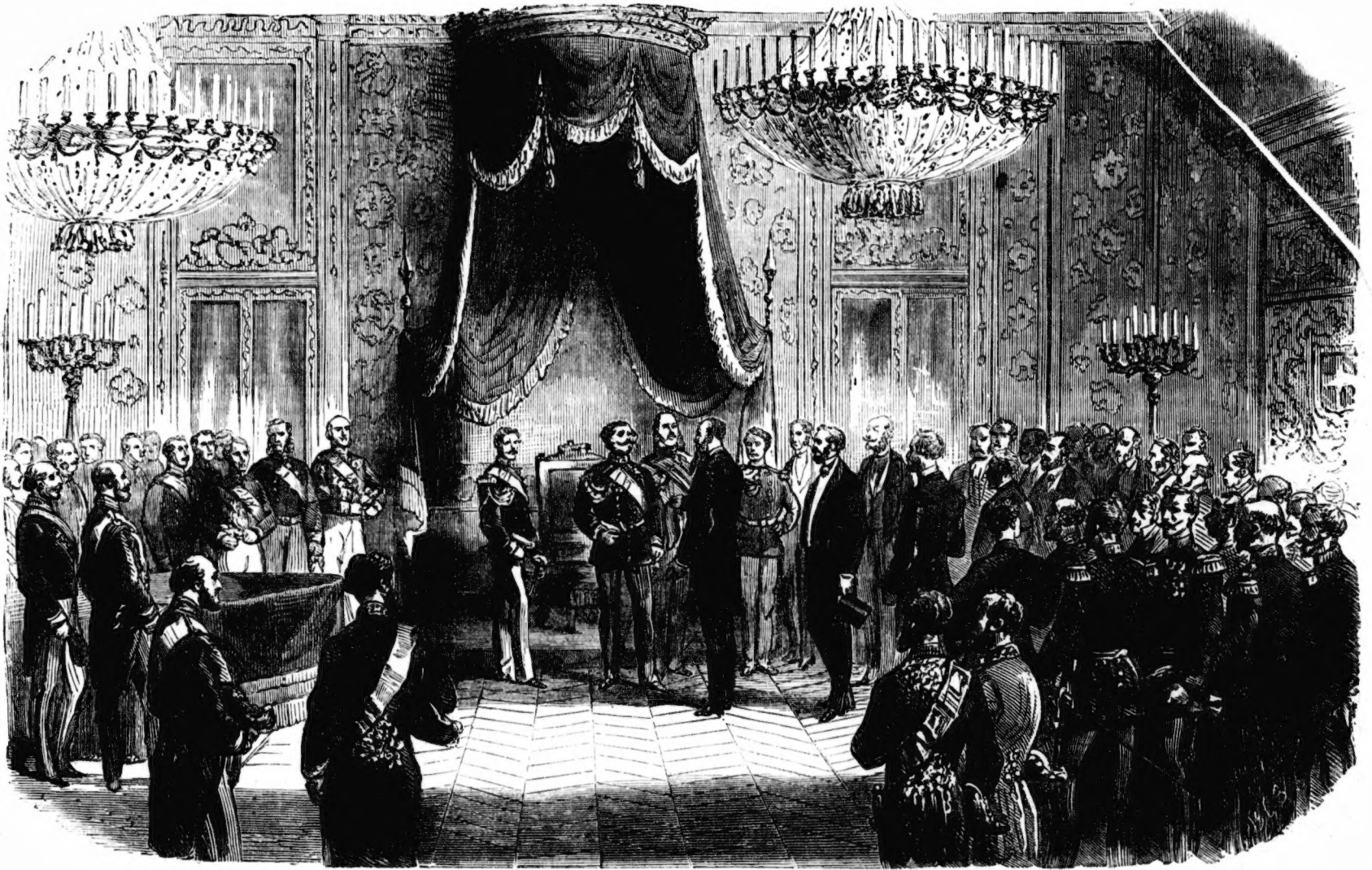
PRESIDENT TECCHIO DECLARING THE RESULT OF THE PLEBISCITUM AT THE DUCAL PALACE, VENICE.

THE GREAT FIRE AT QUEBEC.

FEW events of recent occurrence have excited so general and profound a feeling of sympathy as that caused by the late extensive and calamitous conflagration at Quebec. In the province itself, as well as in the United States and in this country, pity for the sufferers and an anxiety to aid in relieving their distress have been exhibited everywhere. Large subscriptions have been collected,

committees having been formed in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, and elsewhere; and it is to be hoped that the liberal spirit exhibited will be the means of at least mitigating the evils which the disaster has occasioned. One of the latest donations received was of £1000, sent by a person who designated himself "Anonymous," who, under this name, is willing to do that good which he would blush to find fame,

To the north of the Rock of Quebec, and in the very shadow of the steep old cliff, lies the suburb of St. Roch, which, previous to the disastrous conflagration of the 14th of October, was a closely-packed agglomeration of houses, occupied by some 20,000 inhabitants, principally French Canadians of the poorer class. Ship-carpenters, riggers, and mechanics in the various branches of skilled industry connected with the shipbuilder's craft



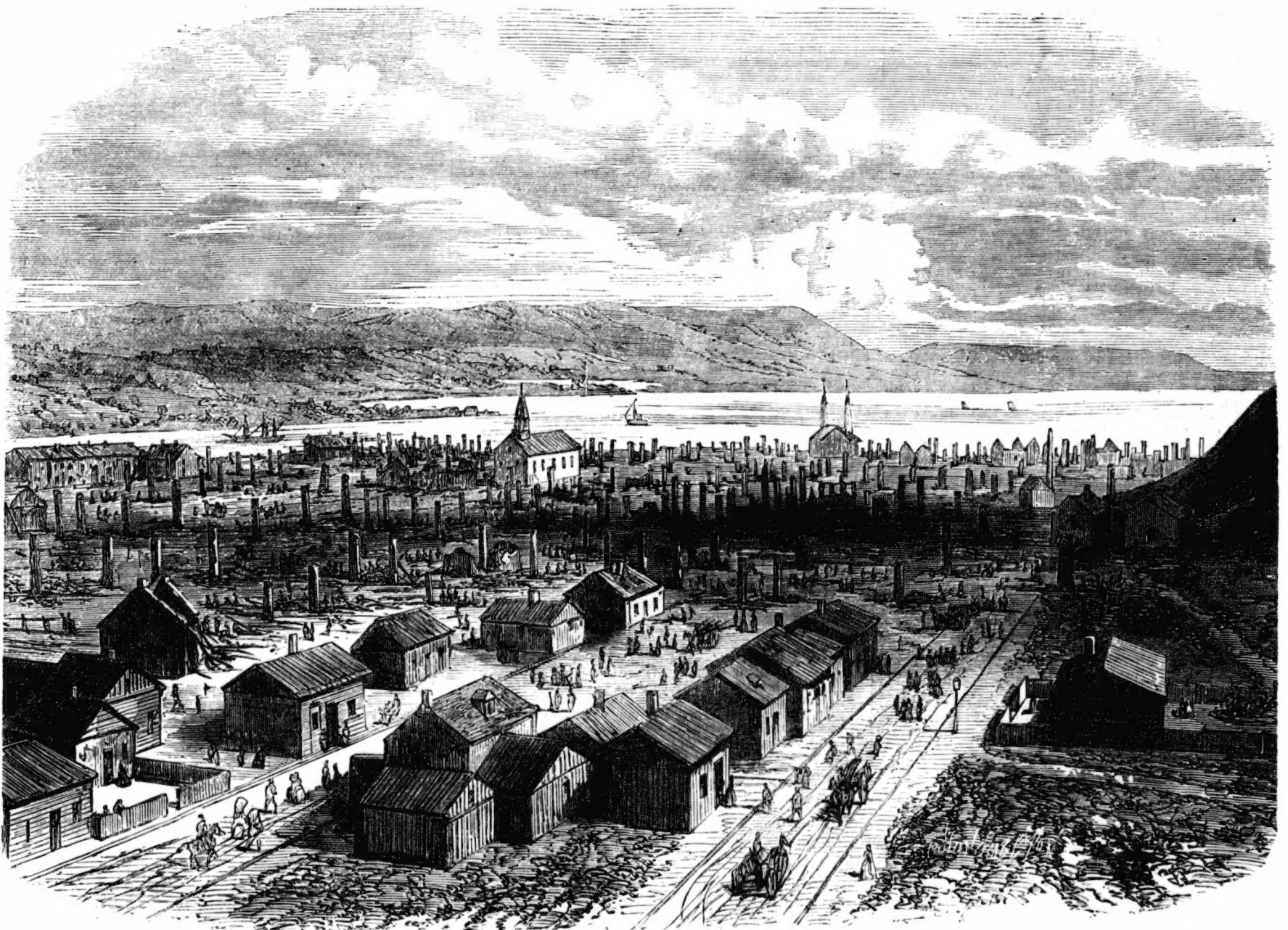
KING VICTOR EMMANUEL RECEIVING THE DEPUTATION WITH THE VENETIAN PLEBISCITUM.

here had their homes; for the River St. Charles—commonly known at Quebec as the "Little River"—winds close by the northern edge of the suburb, and it is on the banks of this narrow but deep stream that the principal shipyards of Quebec are situated. There are few more picturesque views than that to be had from the high cliff near Mount Pleasant, where the road winds down Savageau's Hill to the flat, marshy tract beneath, called the Bijou. Here, while St. Roch yet stood intact, it was pleasant to stand and look down upon the

dense mass of buildings that stretched away to where the "Little River" empties its waters into the great St. Lawrence. Beyond this stretches the Bay of Quebec, sweeping in deep indentations along the Beauport shore to a point where the eye rests upon a deep cleft in the precipitous bank; and a short way above the opening of this cleft the magnificent Fall of Montmorency hangs sheer down like a silver scarf tossed against the dark brown rock. From the point just referred to, however, Montmorency is not visible, being shut in

from the spectator by the western bank of the cleft. Further away there extends a serrated ridge of blue mountains, which forms the horizon beyond the beautiful Isle of Orleans. Nothing can be more lovely than this scene on a calm autumnal day, when the bright tints of the foliage on the nearer mountains lend the charm of colour to the landscape.

The fire seems to have begun on Sunday morning, Oct. 14, at about four o'clock, in the house of a grocer and grogseller, named



THE SCENE OF THE LATE GREAT FIRE IN QUEBEC.

Trudel, in St. Joseph-street, near the Jacques Cartier Market. The locality was what is designated as "low," and the allegation is that it originated in the upsetting of a stove during a row among some drunken men. The wind was blowing little less than a gale, and the early hour in the morning, with its inevitable absence of people, made the first progress of the flames much more easy. When the fire brigade arrived upon the scene the force the fire had assumed was well-nigh irresistible, and by eleven o'clock much of the lower town—in fact, the whole centre of the district lying between the Church of St. Sauveur and the lower streets running parallel with the St. Lawrence, called the "Plain of St. Charles"—was in ruins. The conflagration, spite of all efforts, did not cease until about five p.m., when it had been in progress thirteen hours; and then it seems literally to have ceased for want of further material on which to prey. It is worthy of remark that a part of the same district was burned down in 1845, though the conflagration of that date was much less destructive as well as much less extensive.

Different computations place the number of houses destroyed at from 2560 to 3000, the number of homeless people at 18,000 to 25,000, and the loss in money at from 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 dollars. Only a small proportion of this was covered by insurance, the new tax laws of Canada making it unprofitable for the United States companies to take risks in Canadian cities, and a large proportion of property consequently lying uninsured.

Our Engraving is from a photograph taken at the Marine Hospital, and represents the appearance of the ruins on the day after the calamity. In an area of less than two miles, between Diamond Point and the river St. Charles, an affluent of the St. Lawrence, a number of important buildings had been almost completely destroyed, including the congregational church, the hospital, the convent, and several houses, built of stone; of all the other edifices nothing but heaps of ruins remained.

CONCERTS AND NEW MUSIC.

THE first performance given by the Sacred Harmonic Society for the season of 1866-7 took place on Friday, and consisted of Beethoven's first mass (in C) and Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang," which has now been played upwards of five-and-twenty times at Exeter Hall. The mass in C, though less familiar to the frequenters of Exeter Hall than the "Lobgesang," is thoroughly well known, and has been executed sufficiently often to give it the character of a stock work. Mozart's "Requiem," preceded by Handel's "Dettingen Te Deum," is announced for Friday, Dec. 7.

Mr. Mellon's interesting concerts terminated on Saturday evening, when the attendance was very numerous, and the applause at the end of the performance most enthusiastic. Indeed, had it not been for Mr. Mellon, the public would, during several months at the end of the opera season, have been deprived of musical entertainments altogether. The artistic results of concerts of this kind are seldom very remarkable. But Mr. Mellon has produced some works of importance—such, for instance, as Meyerbeer's overture to the "Prophète," and a large number of minor compositions, including a capital waltz of his own ("The Bonny"), another of equal merit by Herr Meyer Lütz (the "Lemuel"), and a few by amateurs, of which the most successful, perhaps, has been the one written by Colonel Baillie. Of the final performance it will be enough to say that it took place.

The preparations for the promised pantomime are now going on. It will, we are informed, be preceded by an operatic *lever de rideau* of Mr. Mellon's composition.

The last Monday Popular Concert was remarkable, partly for the presence of Prince Leopold, partly for the first appearance at these entertainments of Herr Wilhelm, the violinist, and partly for the first appearance this season of Mr. Charles Hallé, the pianist. The first period of these concerts may now be said to have come to an end. M^{me}. Arabella Goddard and a quartet-party led by Herr Strauss have gone into the provinces, where they will, no doubt, popularise (perhaps we should say "Monday Popularise") a certain amount of "chamber music"—a style with which our amateurs are but little acquainted elsewhere than in London. At the first four concerts of the St. James's Hall series the pianoforte music, which forms so attractive a feature at these entertainments, has been intrusted to M^{lle}. Arabella Goddard, who (as a contemporary well observes) "has done more to make the public acquainted with works that, however genuine, had almost been consigned to oblivion, than any pianist, or, indeed, any number of pianists, whose names are recognised in the musical world." Dussek seems to be an especial favourite of hers, for on several occasions she has played not only the splendid sonata in F minor, called "L'Invocation" (his most perfect work), but also two of his best concertos (Nos. 6 and 12), and his grand sonatas, "Les Adieux à Clementi" and "Plus Ultra," besides taking the pianoforte part in one of his quintets, one of his quartets, and one of his trios. A more enchanting performance than that of M^{me}. Arabella Goddard in the "Invocation sonata" cannot be heard. It was received, last Monday week, with the same enthusiasm that it created in 1864, when M^{me}. Goddard played it for the first time. Last Monday Mr. Hallé played Beethoven's sonata in C minor in his usual admirable manner; and Herr Wilhelm, who was already known as a brilliant violinist in the fantasia style, proved that he was specially at home in classical music.

1. *The Lemuel Waltz*. By MEYER LUTZ. 2. *The Bonny Waltz*. By ALFRED MELLON. Boosey and Co.

"The Lemuel Waltz," named in honour of Mrs. Alfred Mellon's celebrated impersonation, and dedicated to her, is one of the best of the numerous waltzes produced at the series of concerts which Mr. Mellon has just brought to a conclusion.

Mr. Mellon's own waltz, too, is excellent of its kind. It was as a composer of dance music and diversions that Mr. Mellon first came before the public; and "The Bonny Waltz" is a capital specimen of his style in this branch of production.

Gems of Alexander Lee. Arranged for the Piano by E. L. HIME, Duff and Stewart.

Mr. Hime's "Gems of Alexander Lee" are short and easy fantasias on favourite songs by the composer just named. No. 1 is "Haste away to the Mountain Brow;" No. 2 is "The Soldier's Tear;" No. 3, "The Gondollette;" No. 4, "Meet me in the Willow Glen."

THE COUNTRYMAN'S JOKE.—The German journals relate the following anecdote:—"Saxhausen is one of the suburbs of Frankfurt, and is partly occupied by gardeners, who are considered, rightly or wrongly, to be a clownish lot. When the Prussian troops entered the city every house was obliged to billet one or two soldiers. The inhabitants of Saxhausen acquitted themselves of this duty with a very bad grace, and one of them showed such manifest signs of ill-will towards his guest that the latter, when he sat down to dinner, placed his sword on the table by his side, with a very significant gesture. The countryman said nothing, but left the room, and returned in a moment with an enormous pitchfork, which he laid down beside the sword. The soldier rushed up with anger, but the other quietly observed:—"I thought that for so big a knife a big fork was required; if you like, we can each make use of our own implement." This was all the satisfaction the son of Mars could obtain, so he thought fit to put his sword away in a corner of the kitchen, while the other withdrew the pitchfork."

SIR WILLIAM ERLE.—The late Lord Chief Justice Erle was educated at Winchester, whence he proceeded to New College, Oxford, where he took his B.C.L. degree in 1818, being then twenty-one years of age. His father was the Rev. Christopher Erle, of Gillingham, Dorset. He was elected a fellow of New College, and in 1819 was called to the Bar, and went to the Western Circuit. In 1824 he was married to the daughter of the Rev. David Williams, afterwards warden of New College; and in the same year he was made a King's counsel, on the nomination of Lord Brougham, who was then Lord Chancellor. In 1837 he was returned to the House of Commons as member for the city of Oxford, and continued its representative until the dissolution of Parliament in 1841. In 1845 he was selected by Lord Lyndhurst (then Lord Chancellor) as one of the Puisne Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and in the following year was transferred to the Court of Queen's Bench. In 1859, on the appointment of Sir Alexander Cockburn to the Chief Justiceship of the Court of Queen's Bench, Sir W. Erle was nominated his successor in the Chief Justiceship of the Court of Common Pleas, from which he retired on Monday. For some years he was counsel for the Bank of England.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES BY THE INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOUR.

THE New Society has this winter, for the first time since its establishment, opened its gallery with an exhibition of sketches. It is to be congratulated upon the readiness with which the members have responded to the call. The collection is a large one, and not large only, but meritorious; and we feel sure that pleasure will be derived from it by a numerous public of friends and admirers, glad to catch a glimpse of their artist-friends after a shorter interval than has been their wont hitherto.

A first glance round the room proves that the young society has been unable to avoid a fault which we have noticed in the older. In many cases, finished pictures have been sent in instead of sketches, and the practice is likely to grow upon the members. It is true that, in these days, sketches are more elaborated and finished than they used to be; but even this will hardly explain the number of "pictures" which are here exhibited as "sketches." We would entreat the society to guard against this while there is time: we should regret to see the winter display of sketches become a mere selling exhibition.

Where all have acquitted themselves well, it is, as a rule, hard to say who deserves first mention. In this case, however, there is a work on the walls of such remarkable merit that it will be universally allowed that the greatest prominence is its due. We allude to Mr. Carl Werner's view of "Beirut" (254A), which would be sufficient to make a painter's reputation if he never touched pencil again. The film of green water spreading over the sands in successive layers, with a long quiet wash and swell; the slow heave of its further depths, and the luminous reflex trembling on its glossy surface, are all placed on paper with the vigour and truth—ay, and the mystery—of nature. Beyond the dark blue sea fades into the far horizon; and, in the mid-distance, the tower on the mole at the harbour mouth—a portrait to the minutest detail of broken stone and cool shadow—stands in the still, swooning glare of an Eastern evening. We would entreat all lovers of art by no means to omit a visit to this marvellous work; to miss seeing it will be to lose an opportunity of judging how far art can wield the magic of nature. Alas! that such a masterpiece can only become the property of one of its many admirers! Lucky will he be who possesses it; though, as in the case of the fair lady in the ballad,

The smile that blest one lover's heart
Has broken many more.

There are several other works by Mr. Werner on the walls, all admirable. We would specially draw attention to the "Bazaar" (429), with the glimpse of real sunlight beyond its cool shade; to the view of "Phile" (248); and "Cairo" (213), a sketch taken when the retiring waters leave the vegetation clothed for a short time in a vivid and unusual verdure.

Mr. Hine is the exhibitor of several pictures, amongst which it is not easy to select, for all are good. The most remarkable is, perhaps, a "Study of Thunder-clouds" (465), for it reproduces with exactness the peculiar effect of coppery sky and lurid haze observable in stormy times. "The Old Parsonage, Eastbourne" (326), and a "Lugger, Hastings" (338), are also fine works.

Mr. Edwin Hayes is a large exhibitor. His frames, with groups of admirable sketches of sea and seacoast, are worthy, every one of them, of study; and we are glad to think this exhibition will place his works within reach of many whose admiration is more largely developed than their purse. Some of Mr. Hayes's small studies here are worth five times the sums placed against them in the catalogue—take Nos. 234 and 204 as examples. Mr. Vacher, one of the first landscape painters in the society, contributes many works, the most notable a sketch of the "Campagna" (170), which, if we remember rightly, he placed on canvas last year with great success. Mr. Pidgeon, an ardent lover and faithful transcriber of nature, whose conscientious pencil has often lent charm to the exhibitions of the society, is not largely represented, but well. To judge from his works, this arises from his scrupulously withholding anything not veritably a sketch. The "Haunt of Moor-fowl" (107), and "The Old Road" (109), bear evident traces of honest work from nature.

Mr. Mogford, like Mr. Hayes, frequents the seashore, and brings from it many a careful transcript of the various aspects of the ever-changing ocean. "Saltwick Nab" (10), "Dirty Weather" (95), "Sunset after Rain" (116), and "Fittful Weather" (146) are so many proofs of his earnest study and the deserved success which crowns it. Mr. Philp is another painter of coast scenery, whose "Mullion Cove" (22) is but one of many laudable works. Mr. McKean is broad and bold in his work, as usual. His "Mahometan Cemetery" (52), "Study of Rocks" (65), and "Foreland" (320) all deserve mention; which must also be awarded to Mr. Whymp, whose "Carrying Bark" (93) and "Haymakers" (252) ought not to be overlooked.

We cannot find space to do more than draw attention to Mr. Leitch's "Campagna" (85), Mr. Fahey's "Beeches" (33), Mr. E. Warren's "Yule Log" (48), Mr. H. Warren's "Prayer of the Fedg" (462), and Mr. Mole's "Shrimper" (96). Mr. Sutcliffe's studies of "Summer and Winter Sun" (12), Mr. Rowbotham's "Beach at Broadstairs" (9), Mr. Skinner Frou's "Bishop's Palace" (356), are all admirable. Mr. Tidey, especially in "Pad's Wood" (155), shows a power in his sketches which he frequently loses in his finished works. Mrs. Oliver and Messrs. Telbin and Richardson are also among the exhibitors.

Among the figure-painters M. Guido Bach is *facile princeps* in breadth and vigour of drawing and harmony of colour. This is but the second year he has exhibited; and he shows more than promise of becoming one of the foremost men of the day, as well as of the society. His two sketches—large in composition and sweeping in line—represent similar subjects, "Hylas" (347), and a "Fisher and Nymph" (419)—they are truly admirable. Mr. Corbould, in his sketches—notably in his "Anna Boleyn" (224)—shows to greater advantage than in many of his more finished works. When we say that his studies remind us in tone of Mr. John Gilbert's work, it will be at once seen how superior they are to the garish, gas-lighty finish too often marred Mr. Corbould's finest pictures. Mr. Louis Haghe gives an elaborate sketch for a large picture, "The Artist's Studio" (83), painted with his usual power. Mr. C. Cattermole—worthy representative of a famous name—exhibits some brilliant and vigorous sketches, none of which please us more than the "Drummer Boy" (132), full of character, as well as colour. Mr. W. Lucas still maintains his place, which is no inconsiderable one, in the ranks of this excellent society. "Is He Coming?" (299) is a very pleasant example of his pleasant pencil. Mr. Jopling sends several single-figure studies, of which we would specially commend the cleverly-dashed-in "Man at Arms" (110). Mr. Bouvier supplies several "sweetly" pretty heads—"La Sorrellina" (387) and "Grey Eyes" (195) rising a little above his usual standard in purpose. Mr. Luson Thomas, young as an Associate, but long known, comparatively, in art, shows with what industry he pursues his study of colour in the intervals of what, without punning, we would style "graver" work. A group of "Boys Bathing" (528) and the "Trout Stream" (23) are admirable specimens of his earnest drawing and his freshness and brilliance of colour. To this latter quality he must be careful not to sacrifice solidity—a danger apparent in some of his other works in the gallery.

Miss Farmer is represented by a delightful pair of studies of a little girl (504), and Mr. Kilburne appears to great advantage in his quaint and bright "Making Acquaintance" (507). Mr. C. Green shows in his sketches less of the "niggle" which injures his pictures. His "Cottage Interior" (169) is admirable, and so is his "Study of a Girl" (126). His "Fairfield" (63) is clever; but, in an attempt to give the brightness of spring verdure, he has erred somewhat in crudity.

Mr. Shalders paints sheep with a skill that Sir Edwin himself might envy. His "Loiterers" (466) is beyond praise, both for texture and character. Mr. Weir sends but five contributions to the collection, but every one of them is a gem—one frame containing

"A Thrush" and "The Warrener's Return" (220) is marked at a price that is absurdly low for such admirable work.

We do not ordinarily devote much space to flower-paintings. Hunt's flower-paintings were pictures, but in most cases such works are mere studies of colour at best. Mrs. Duffield, however, brings to the art such skill, such taste, and so delightful a mastery of colour and harmony, that we gladly depart from our rule to award her especial praise.

SHOCKING DEATH OF A SERVANT GIRL FROM FIRE.

ON Monday evening Mr. C. St. Clare Bedford, the Westminster Coroner, and a jury assembled in St. George's Hospital for inquiry relative to the death of Sylvia Bennett, aged fifteen years, who lost her life through the agency of crinoline, under the following very shocking circumstances:—

Charlotte Bell, a widow, said she kept a family lodging-house at 61, Sloane-street, Chelsea, and that the deceased was in her service. On Thursday last, about twelve o'clock, she was cleaning up a bed-room on the third floor, when she suddenly ran down stairs, screaming, into the kitchen, enveloped in flames. She then ran to the street door, having previously seized witness's hands as she was going to fetch some water from the washhouse. When deceased was at the street door a French gentleman and Mr. Ellis, a surgeon, attended her, and removed her in a blanket to St. George's Hospital.

By the Coroner.—Witness afterwards went into the room. There was a fire there, but no guard on the grate. The hearthrug was folded up, and there were some cinders in the pan. The deceased wore a cotton dress and witness a worsted one, otherwise when she was seized by the burning girl she might have taken fire. The intense heat came into her face. On the third floor there were two separate bed-rooms, the counterpanes to each bed being singed as though the deceased had run into the room. Witness did not say a word to her, as she was struck speechless by fear. The hoops from the crinoline of deceased were on the steps at the street door, having fallen from her burning clothes.

Sarah Fitch, a greengrocer, was standing with a pony and cart opposite No. 61, when she heard violent screaming from the house and the words, "Oh, pray come and put me out!" The door then opened, and a young woman covered in flames stood on the door step. Witness took a carpet or horserug out of the cart, and she and a man helped to place it round her to put out the flame. Other persons then assisted.

Mr. Ellis, surgeon, of 63, Sloane-street, heard the cries of deceased, and on looking round he saw her on the doorstep completely covered in flame. A French gentleman closed his upper coat round the deceased and assisted to extinguish the fire in which the deceased was enveloped. There was a great amount of fire after the visible flames were put out. The carpet which was wrapped round deceased began to scorch, and flame was observed about the breast and under the arm, which was extinguished with water. He (Mr. Ellis) then obtained a blanket, but the poor sufferer was so much burnt that he had to make a stretcher of it to prevent it pressing her. She was carried to a four-wheeled cab, but the driver refused to take the poor creature, notwithstanding the threats of the bystanders. Witness had her placed in his own carriage, and drove her to the hospital. The heat from the body of the sufferer in a few minutes covered the carriage windows with steam. Witness believed that the dress of deceased had caught fire from behind.

M. Jules Willez, teacher of languages, 148, St. Paul's-road, Camden Town, gave evidence as to his exertions, which called forth great commendation.

Evidence was then given that deceased, while in the hospital, said she was dusting the mantelpiece, and on turning round towards the dustpan her clothes must have caught fire.

Mr. Lee, the house-surgeon, deposed to the admission of the deceased on Thursday morning. She was terribly burned all over, her feet only excepted. She died about seven o'clock the same evening from the effects of the burns.

Some remarks were made relative to the conduct of the cabman mentioned, when

Mr. Inspector Rolls, B division, in reply to the Coroner, said he believed that a cabman was not compelled to take a fare whereby his cab might be injured. If Mr. Ellis or any gentleman who met with the driver's refusal were to complain to the Commissioners the man could be found, and the matter would be investigated.

The Coroner said it was the first case of the kind he had met with, for he had found cabmen were humane as well as other people.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was recorded.

THE PROTRACTED STRIKE of the ironworkers in the Tyneside district may now be said to have terminated. On Tuesday the Jarrow men had an interview with Mr. C. M. Palmer, and the result of it was that they commenced working again last night. The puddlers at the Walker Ironworks began work on Tuesday night, and the millmen on Wednesday morning.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE ERLE.—The proceedings of the Court of Common Pleas on Monday were invested with unusual interest, in consequence of the retirement of Lord Chief Justice Erle. The Attorney-General, in a short valedictory address (during which the whole court remained standing), expressed the high admiration which the profession entertained for the admirable judicial qualities displayed by his Lordship, and their affectionate regard for the kindness and courtesy that had been displayed by him upon the Bench for the last twenty-one years. The Lord Chief Justice, who exhibited great emotion, made a suitable reply. His Lordship was one of the most popular and esteemed Judges that ever added dignity and lustre to the Bench.

THE COLLIERIES IN THE MIDLAND DISTRICTS.—The strike continues, and the men are removing their families from the houses in the neighbourhood of the pits which they refuse to work. A slight disturbance has taken place between a non-unionist and a member of the union, with threats of personal violence. Acting upon the resolution adopted at the recent conference of miners at Nottingham, cottages and huts are being provided for the turn-outs of Staveley and Clay Cross, at the cost of the National Miners' Association. Meetings of colliers continue to be held at Chesterfield, Clay Cross, and other places. Coal is advancing in price, and the prospects for the winter are disheartening.

THE BRICKS OF THE PYRAMIDS.—Professor Unger, the celebrated Viennese botanist and paleontologist, has recently published some remarks on the bricks of the ancient Egyptians, especially those of the pyramid of Dashour, which was built about 3400 years before our era. One of them being examined through the microscope by the professor, he discovered that the mud of the Nile, out of which it was made, contained not only a quantity of animal and vegetable matter, but also fragments of many manufactured substances, whence we may conclude that Egypt must have enjoyed a high degree of civilisation upwards of 5000 years ago. Professor Unger has been enabled, by the aid of the microscope, to discover in these bricks a vast number of plants which at that time grew in Egypt. The chopped straw, clearly discernible in the body of the bricks, confirms the description of the manner of making the latter, such as we find it in Herodotus and in the book of Exodus.—*Engineer*.

LEGAL CHANGES.—The rumours of retirements from the Bench, of new and additional Judges to meet the exigencies of the public service and accelerate the administration of justice in London and the country, and alterations as regards circuit arrangements, gain increased credit as time progresses; and there is as little doubt of the intention of the Government to seek the necessary powers from Parliament for the appointment of new Judges as that the requirements of the country will be found sufficiently absolute to induce legislation in this direction. A change in the disposition of circuit towns and the institution of new ones seems an inevitable event, consequent on the just demands of Lancashire and other important counties. Birmingham is to become an assize town; and the usually well-informed say that the Treasury scheme is to create another, or seventh, English circuit, for the special benefit of suitors in the north; whilst Birmingham is to form a part of the Midland Circuit, Hereford and Monmouth being transferred from the Oxford Circuit to the Welsh, and Winchester from the Western Circuit to the Oxford. Whether the Government contemplate or have any views relative to different periods for the law terms and the frequency of their recurrence, or of any increase in the number of the circuits, has not transpired. Certainly, the whole subject is one the consideration of which is a matter of infinite and instant importance; and the execution of a well-digested plan, without delay, will be a real boon to all parties.—*Law Journal*.

THE GREAT BOOT QUESTION.—A few days ago a couple went to be married at a village church near Wakefield. The bridegroom was a miner, and was evidently one of the most ignorant of his class, and his intended spouse was one in the same station of life. The ceremony proceeded uninterruptedly until the question was put, "Will thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife?" At this point the man turned round to the woman, and, to the intense horror of the officiating minister, coolly asked her, "Wi ta clean mi boots?" The bride vouchsafed no answer to the interrogation, although repeated three times, each time with greater emphasis and force, before the clergyman recovered from his surprise and ordered the "fraternal pair" out of the edifice. This was an eventuality as astounding and as unexpected to the bridegroom as his own conduct had been to the person; but it had the effect of bringing him to his senses, and he piteously begged of the clerk to ask the minister to come back, promising most abjectly to go through the ceremony "all reet." "He was nobbat an ignorant mon," he said, "and didn't naw he wor doin' wrang. The fact wor, he and his missis had had money a rumput about boot cleanin' job, and he'd sworn he'd ne'er wed her if she didna promise to fettle 'em." The clergyman was at last induced to return, and, after reading the couple a lecture on the sacredness of the ceremony they were about to go through and the solemn character of the building in which they were, proceeded with the service, and the two were made one, the "boot" controversy being adjourned sine die. It is to be hoped that, when resumed, the "boot" itself will not be turned into a powerful auxiliary in the discussion.—*Wakefield Journal*.

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